















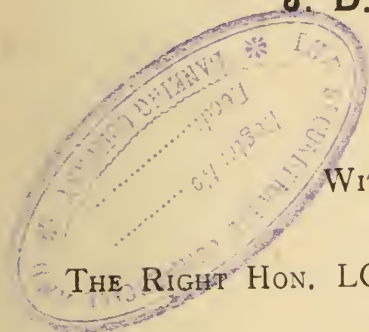


**His Excellency Lord Ampthill, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,**

Pro Grand Master of England,  
Provincial Grand Master of Bedfordshire,  
District Grand Master of Madras.

# History of Freemasonry in Hyderabad (Deccan),

BY  
**J. D. B. GRIBBLE.**



WITH A PREFACE BY

THE RIGHT HON. LORD AMPHILL, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

PRO GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND.

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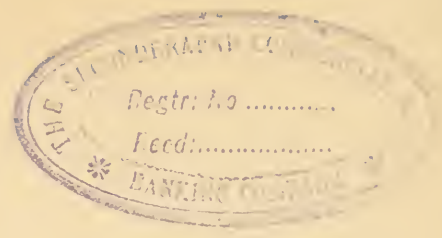
J. D. B. GRIBBLE.

*December, 1907.*

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## LIST OF PORTRAITS.

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G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

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S. H. JOHNSTON.

## PREFACE.

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It was the wish, I am told, of the late Bro. Gribble that I should write a short preface to this history, which he was good enough to dedicate to me. I cannot do otherwise than comply with the wish of a departed Brother, although I have neither the knowledge nor the qualification to write that which would be appropriate. I had hardly any acquaintance with the late Bro. Gribble; indeed I only had the pleasure of meeting him on one or two occasions, but on those occasions and in the course of some correspondence with him on Masonic affairs, I found full confirmation of "the tongue of good report" which I had heard in his favour as a Mason. But there could be no more conspicuous proof of his devotion to the Craft and of his firm faith in the "beneficent effects of our ancient Institution" than this very history. No man who had not his whole heart in Freemasonry could possibly have undertaken such a laborious task, and although the writer modestly calls his work a "collection of dry bones" he has himself imbued it with the life of his own ardent spirit. Those who read this chronological record with attention and knowledge will discern the character of the writer in numerous passing comments and will recognize that he was a historian with a due sense of proportion and great fairness of mind. Bro. Gribble properly viewed Freemasonry as a man of the world, and while he did not claim for the Craft powers or virtues which no human institution can possess, he fully appreciated the advantages of the ideals which it holds up.

There can be no question of the utility of a history such as this, and in India where men come and go so quickly it is

particularly desirable that there should be a written record of the doings of those who have gone before and who have striven against peculiar difficulties to keep Freemasonry alive. From such a record the present and future generations can derive both instruction and encouragement—instruction as to the causes of failure in the past, and encouragement from the knowledge that similar and even greater difficulties than their own have been overcome before.

Bro. Gribble concludes his history with some characteristic comments and suggestions. I have seen enough of the difficulties of Freemasonry in India to appreciate the discouragement to which he refers, but I do not agree as to the remedy.

The institution of a Metropolitan Grand Lodge in India would not in my opinion be practicable; the distances alone would make attendance impossible and the additional duties would involve that “overdoing” of Freemasonry which Bro. Gribble so rightly deprecates.

It is not by the super-imposition of a new governing body and the addition of titles without corresponding responsibilities that the merits of individual Masons can be better recognized. The remedy lies in the closer vigilance and more active interest of the existing authorities. There can be no respect for law where the law is not strictly enforced, and when the law is not universally and fully respected there is no opportunity for those who would be “examples of good order and regularity” to shine and secure recognition. It is for the Masters of Lodges in the first instance to discover, encourage, reward and record Masonic zeal. The higher and remote authorities cannot award distinctions unless they have definite and well-proved recommendations to go upon. No Brother therefore should be elected Master of a Lodge unless he has qualifications other than that of mere seniority to discharge the duties of his important trust. The Craft will be well governed or ill governed accordingly as the Brethren choose their own Rulers.

I trust that this book will find many readers outside the circle of the Brethren of Deccan, for it is full of interest for all who care about the Craft and it is the work of one who laboured steadfastly and courageously for the best interests of Freemasonry.

AMPTHILL.

MILTON ERNEST HALL,  
BEDFORD,  
*17th August, 1909.*



# HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN HYDERABAD (DECCAN).

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## INTRODUCTION.

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I FEEL very great diffidence in issuing this account of Freemasonry in Hyderabad. A Historian can scarcely expect to be amusing, but he ought to be interesting. The subject of Masonry to a man who has taken it to his heart, is one of intense interest, and the historical issues involved, as treated by the modern scientific Lodges, amongst which the *Quatuor Coronati* holds so high a position, are of the utmost importance to the student of the moral and social development of civilization. But the modern historian can add very little to the former knowledge of Freemasonry; almost all he can do is to contribute a collection of dry bones which someone else may perhaps be able to endue with life. In my own case I have had to deal with a group of Lodges, whose labours extend over a period of about 85 years, working for the most part in a limited area—in a foreign country—and the members of which are, during successive periods, considerably intermingled. All that I have been able to do is to plod through the transactions of each Lodge from month to month, noticing every now and again points of interest. As is to be expected in a Secret Society, there is much that is left to the imagination, and a considerable amount has to be read between the lines. I can contribute nothing of historical value towards the science of Freemasonry, all I can do is to describe the working of the different Lodges and in a faint way to portray their effect upon a portion of Society in a limited area. There remains much which the Masonic reader must supply from his own imagination, and, considering the few results that I have been able to glean from a vast amount of tedious labour, I cannot blame him if he thinks in the words of an old proverb, that “it is not worth while searching through a pottle of hay, in order to find a needle.”

One point that has struck me in going through the transactions of the five Lodges that have been working within a circumference of about 6 miles, is the striking resemblance between Masonry and the Biblical parable of the sower and the seed. There are those who join first one

Lodge and then another, apparently attracted by curiosity or other motives, like the Queen of Sheba ; there are others who go on for a certain time until they have got all that they can expect, and then fall off or disappear altogether ; and again there are others, who are always to the front, brethren who, having passed the chair, have nothing more to expect, but still continue to work in several Lodges, sometimes in all, in a thoroughly unselfish manner, always ready to help and always foremost in charity. In a large military station like Secunderabad, the changes are naturally very constant and there are some who, when they are transferred resign their connection at once and others who hold on to their mother-Lodge for years even after they have retired. Again there is another class of Masons thoroughly honest and conscientious who after being really zealous in the performance of their duties suddenly drop off. I am not prepared to go as far as the late Dr. Oliver, and claim for Masonry a Divine origin. It seems to me that Freemasonry attempts no rivalry with any religion. Everything depends upon a definition and Religion, whether it be Christian, Mahomedan, Buddhistic, or Zoroastrian, claims to train men to qualify for a future existence ; whereas Masonry simply endeavours to teach them how to behave towards each other whilst we are in this transitory life. Now, there are some whom I have spoken of as being thoroughly zealous and conscientious Masons who as time goes on are dissatisfied and relinquish Freemasonry in order to devote themselves to Religion. In reality the one is but the step towards the other. The really thorough Freemason is the best qualified adept for any religion, and all Religions have what Masonry has not, a Divine origin. Masonry, as I have said, is a human institution ; its origin was a selfish one : namely the protection of trade interests. In later years it has developed through symbolism into a training school of social and moral ethics, but being human it has its defects—Although, when properly understood, Freemasonry provides a remedy for that curse of social life, which originates in misunderstandings and culminates in quarrels and hatred, it often happens, that, being but human, dissensions occur amongst the brethren themselves. There is a class of really good and zealous Masons, who, shocked at such incidents, or unwilling to be mixed up in such matters, at once withdraw. In every Creed, Religion and Profession there are always unworthy members. If on occasion of incidents of this kind the good men withdraw they leave an open field for the unworthy ones, and it may take years for a Lodge to recover from the effects of what may be termed a want of moral courage. For those who care to look for them, instances will be found in these annals of all the points that have been touched upon in the foregoing remarks, but as I have said before they will have to read between the lines.

With these remarks I shall conclude my introduction, but for the reader who cares to search through my 'pottle of hay' I shall venture at the end to give a few deductions which may or may not be of use to him.

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I am indebted to Wor. Bro. Stevens, P. M. of Lodge St. John's, for the analysis of the minutes of that Lodge from the year 1822 to 1828, after which he relinquished the work. The analysis is reproduced subject to some editorial notes, and the same system has been followed throughout the rest of the book.

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J. D. B. Gribble.

# THE HISTORY OF LODGE "ST. JOHN."

SECUNDERABAD, No. 434, E.C.

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VERY truly was it spoken by Solomon, that "of the making of books there is no end," and it is most sincerely hoped that this proverb will bear more particular application to those works which have a bearing upon that craft of which the royal writer was one of the Grand Masters. At the present time our collection of Masonic handbooks is of the scantiest, and indeed this branch of Masonry has been so much neglected that now-a-days many of the rank and file in the Fraternity are quite content to jog along easily as did their fathers without seeking the assistance of Masonic literature, or even keeping themselves posted in the current topics of the craft. More particularly is it necessary for those to whom the Government of individual Lodges is entrusted to realise that they are occupying a position in the Lodge which one day will become an historical epoch whose history will have to be written and whose work will be read and judged by posterity. Lodge Histories, in fact, occupy an important place in the Masonic library; for they detail in a calm and dispassionate manner the sometimes stormy scenes of years gone by; they register often with Masonic sympathy the vicissitudes through which the Lodge has passed, and record with triumphant joy the accession to the ranks of Masonry some brother who possibly has subsequently attained to worldly distinction, or high Masonic rank. It has been very truly said that "he who knoweth not whence he cometh careth little whither he goeth," and thus Lodge Histories have an additional interest for us, as chronicling the changes which have come over our ceremonies and observances, and for the Masonic student have an infinite value as throwing light upon some obscure historical Masonic fact, or filling a gap, which the untimely loss of minutes may have occasioned. These then are the general considerations which make it desirable to record history of a Lodge. Hitherto it has been more or less of a custom to reserve the publication of a Lodge History until such a time as it had completed its centenary; but though a centenary history has no doubt a special and peculiar interest, it nevertheless is of general interest that all old Lodges, even if not centenarian,

should have their histories recorded, for the benefit and assistance of those who come after. More particularly is this the case in dealing with Indian Lodges. The conditions under which Indian Lodges exist are in most cases most unfavourable for the perfect working of Freemasonry, as Bro. R. Kipling truly says, "East is East, and West is West," and though the East be indeed our "temporary home, in it we have no abiding place," but our "comings in and goings out" are largely determined either by a Paternal Government, or the more cogent considerations of health and family ties. Thus it is that with the exception of sundry well-known and faithful Eurasian or Parsi brethren, few Lodges in India can claim among its members any of longstanding whose memory can reach even to the past decade of the Lodge. New faces and constant change constitute the usual atmosphere of the Lodge, and lucky indeed is he who can count five years' continuous membership and attendance at his Lodge. To Lodge "St. John" in Secunderabad the above considerations apply with particular force. Founded as it was in 1822 it possesses an almost unbroken record of minutes, gaps only occurring at such times as the Lodge unfortunately had insufficient members to conduct its ceremonies, a state of things brought about, not as might be supposed by internal discord, or flagging interest in Masonry, but rather on account of a sudden call to its military brethren to serve their Sovereign elsewhere, which at one fell sweep would rob the Lodge of its Officers and Master, until such a time as other brethren arrived and again infused the Lodge with new life. Constant and continual change may be seen writ large in the annals of the Lodge, yet despite this, it may claim a place amid the foremost Masonic bodies and may be justly termed the Premier Lodge working in the Deccan, though it was by no means the first.

The first record of Freemasonry in Hyderabad was in the year 1806, when the 33rd Regiment stationed there worked under a Warrant as Lodge "Unity and Friendship" granted in the year 1803. This Warrant was numbered No. VII. on the Provincial Register. Freemasonry, however, does not appear to have been popular in the capital of the Deccan, for in the year 1807 it was reported to the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Coromandel Coast that Lodge No. VII. held in the 33rd Regiment, Hyderabad, had been obliged to discontinue its Meetings owing to reports which had been circulated among the natives against the brethren. It is a very significant fact that now-a-days such a feeling has long ceased to exist, and many native brethren of distinction are to be found in the various Lodges working in Hyderabad at the present day. In 1810 the 33rd Regiment left Hyderabad and resumed their "Athole" Warrant, No. 90, in England. Whatever hostility may have existed against Masonry in 1806, it does not appear to have lasted very long, for

when the Royal Scots came to relieve the 33rd in 1810, they brought with them their Warrant for Lodge "Unity, Peace and Concord" under which they had been working in Fort St. George, Madras. There is every reason to believe that this Lodge was working quite in accordance with the best Masonic traditions, for at the time they left, Madras Masonry was making vast strides throughout the Southern Presidency, and coming as they did from the Southern capital, they would no doubt be well informed as to the correct working of their ceremonies. In 1812 the regiment moved to Trichinopoly, where they remained two years, after which they again came to Secunderabad, where they remained till 1819, after which they moved to Wallajabad, and ultimately to England about the year 1824. Unfortunately but little information can be gained in India regarding this interesting period in the Masonic History of Hyderabad. Whatever records there were of the proceedings of these Lodges were of course taken away with the Warrant when the regiment left the station, and although Masonry was in a flourishing condition in Southern India, from 1801 till 1820 no returns appear to have been made to the Grand Lodge of England, consequently very little beyond the bare facts above recorded can be gathered as to Masonry in Hyderabad previous to the establishment of Lodge "St. John" in 1822.

From 1819 until 1822 we can find no record of Masonry in Secunderabad, and this brings us to the period of the foundation of Lodge "St. John."

The first authentic document on record is a letter, dated July 20th, 1822, addressed to "G. Lys, Esq." (the Acting Provincial Grand Master of the Coromandel Coast) by Wm. Atkinson (a Lieutenant and Adjutant of the 30th Regiment stationed at Secunderabad), as follows:—

MY DEAR SIR,

Being appointed Secretary to the Lodge of "Saint John" at this station, I beg leave to forward, for your approval and signature, the by-laws which have been adopted by a committee of officers appointed for that purpose. Should they meet your approbation, will you have the goodness to send them to the Editor of the Government Gazette with instructions to print fifty copies to be forwarded to me, together with the original, and also the account, which shall be immediately attended to.

G. Lys, Esq.,  
Secunderabad,  
20th July, 1822.

I am,  
My dear Sir,  
Yours very truly,  
WM. ATKINSON.

This letter is of considerable interest, as it seems to be the first notification sent to the P. G. L. of the formation of Lodge "St. John." The most striking point in the letter is the entire absence of anything

like Masonic style in its address or phraseology, which would, together with the fact that Bro. Wm. Atkinson was only a Lieutenant, show that the appointed Secretary was a comparatively young Mason. Though his style both of correspondence and recording minutes is slightly unmasonic, he was an excellent man of business, and his records are most completely and clearly written, and in many respects furnish the most interesting reading in the whole series of minutes which follow. There are some points of interest about this letter which deserve attention. The first is the assumption of the title of Lodge "St. John" by the brethren in forwarding their draft by-laws; the Lodge had certainly not been Warranted in July 1822, and it is more probable that the brethren in Secunderabad were only acting in a provisional manner in thus assuming the title of Lodge "St. John," pending the arrival of full powers from Acting P. G. M. Lys. Another side light upon the state of affairs in Secunderabad at this period is the fact that the Lodge printing had to be executed in Madras, probably there being no means of securing the execution of such work in Secunderabad, which even then must have been a large and prosperous cantonment. A reply to Bro. Wm. Atkinson's letter was written by Bro. C. F. Peile on the 16th August, by command of the Ag. P. G. Master. This speaks well for both the then existing methods of communication and for the despatch of the P. G. Secretary's office. For it must be remembered that in those days all letters had to be delivered by hand, and taken through districts, many of them infested with dacoits, who would be on the look out for the dāk runner, particularly within the limits of Hyderabad, which was at that time more or less a wild and lawless country and about 500 miles from Madras. The letter received by Bro. Atkinson from Bro. Peile was addressed to Bros. Kingsley, Robertson, Williams, Morton, Sinclair, Milne, Downes, Wray, Fox, Grigg, Skirrow, Backhouse, Lynch, Powell, Bright, Lamb and Atkinson, in all 17 members, so that the Lodge was fairly strong at its outset. All of the above-mentioned brethren were military men, and the Lodge continued to be to all intents and purposes a military Lodge until the year 1828 when Mr. Palmer\* the first civilian was admitted to its ranks. From the letter addressed by Bro. Peile to the brethren, it would seem that Bro. Atkinson's letter of July 20th was by no means the first communication which had passed between Madras and Secunderabad relative to the Lodge, for he refers to a requisition and letter sent by the brethren dated 24th June, 1822. This, it will be noticed, was the festival of St. John the Baptist, and it is highly probable that the brethren met together on that day possibly in pursuance of the old Masonic custom of

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\* This Mr. Palmer was a member of the celebrated Banking Firm of W. Palmer & Co., whose affairs caused so much discussion at and after the retirement of the Marquis of Hastings.

observing the feasts of the two St. John's, and very naturally decided to name the Lodge for which they applied for a Warrant, after the Saint who was commemorated in the Calendar that day. At this period there was no actual P. G. Master for the Coromandel Coast, R. W. Bro. Jebb having died on the 16th August, 1820, Bro. Geo. Lys was acting as P. G. Master. In order, however, that no undue delay might be caused in the opening of the Lodge, Bro. Lys conveyed to the brethren named in his letter of August 16th permission to assemble as a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons under "the style, title and denomination of Saint John," to which Lodge the number 13 was assigned. This number was of course the number on the Provincial Grand Registry, the number granted by Grand Lodge in 1832 being 628, which was afterwards changed in 1863 to 434, which number it now retains. With regard to the numbering of Lodge "St. John" by the Grand Lodge of England, it would seem that although returns from most of the Lodges working in the Province were sent to England, Bro. White appears to have taken but little notice of them until 1836, when a number of Warrants were made out and sent to Madras. Many Lodges for whom these warrants had been issued had ceased to work, and therefore Lodge "St. John" in reality at that time should have occupied a higher place on the Roll than that actually assigned to it. In this same letter of August 16th above referred to, the Ag. P. G. M. nominates Bro. J. F. Kingsley to be Master, Bro. W. B. Robertson to be S.W., and Bro. W. B. Williams J.W., and at the same time, by virtue of the letter in question, grants them all the constitutional privileges of a Lodge on the usual conditions, charging them to consider this letter as a "voucher," until such time as materials shall be procurable for engrossing the warrant in proper form, when it will be forwarded bearing the date of the present dispensation.

The brethren lost no time in availing themselves of the permission thus granted for within a fortnight of the date on which  
 1822,  
 Aug. 30. permission was granted, *viz.*, August 30, "a Lodge of  
 Emergency" assembled at Secunderabad for the purpose of Installing the Officers of the Lodge by virtue of the dispensation granted by the Ag. P. G. Master. The Lodge was opened "on" the first degree and the officers were invested. No reference is made to any ceremony of Installation, nor does there appear to have been any further business except the proposition of three candidates. A loss of seven pages from the Minute Book probably deprives us of much early information regarding the Lodge. The pages in question, however, would seem not to have contained any record of actual Lodge Meetings, but were probably devoted to a copy of the by-laws and the first returns sent to the Grand Lodge; a reference is made to a return having been made to the Grand

Lodge on the 12th September, 1822, and as it was Bro. Wm. Atkinson's custom to copy the returns in the Minute Book, it is quite probable that the *first* returns made by Lodge "St. John" would have found a place among these seven lost pages.

Within two days of opening the Lodge, Bro. Kingsley called his first  
 1822,  
 Sept. 2. Lodge Meeting and proceeded to initiate the three candidates proposed two days previously: Article 184 of the Book of Constitutions notwithstanding. Bro. Robson, of No. 863, was also elected as a joining member, though not previously proposed at a Regular Meeting. Nine fresh candidates were proposed and the Lodge closed at a quarter-past-ten o'clock. A rather unpleasant incident appears to have somewhat marred the harmony of the first Meeting, and though not expressly entered on the Minutes of the Lodge held on the 2nd, it would appear to have taken place at that Meeting. Lieut. Ager, attached to the Russell Brigade (afterwards known as the Hyderabad Contingent), appears to have attended the Meeting as a visitor, although he had "no certificate from the Lodge in which he says he was initiated." The Tyler, Bro. Leaver, by order of the W. M., seems to have refused Lieut. Ager's admission, which apparently led to a somewhat unseemly altercation outside the door of the Lodge, which was plainly heard by the W. M. and brethren, in the course of which Lieut. Ager made use of the expression, "there is not a Mason there," and mentioned the name of one officer whom he was acquainted with, at the same time saying that in future he would not keep company with him. "Lieut. Ager having been ballotted for on the 2nd September, 1822, was blackballed, four blackballs." Not content with this very decided expression of opinion, the Lodge reported Lieut. Ager to the P. G. Lodge in a letter dated September 12th. To this the P. G. Secretary replied in general terms in a letter dated December 16th, to the effect that the R. W. the Ag. P. G. Master expressed his regret at the occurrence, and hoped that the Proceedings of the Lodge would convince the offending Bro. of the impropriety of his conduct. At this time it appears that the W. M., Bro. Kingsley, was anxious to make "St. John's" a Regimental Lodge and keep the Warrant in the Regiment, despite the fact that many initiations were proposed of other military men not belonging to the 30th Regiment. He even went so far as to address the Provincial Grand Lodge on the subject, but as in the case of Lieut. Ager, the Ag. R. W. P. G. M., only vouchsafed a guarded answer, and one which certainly cannot be too strongly commended for its justice. It is as follows:—"The Ag. P. G. M. will have no objections to granting a Warrant to the Masons of H. M.'s 2nd Battalion, 30th Regiment should it be hereafter required, but as it is desirable a Lodge should exist at Secunderabad, since so many of the Cantonment have joined the

institution, the present Warrant No. 13 is made out for that station, as in the event of H. M.'s 30th Regiment moving, the brethren would be left without an authority to meet." The Lodge accordingly

Sept. 9.

ly continued to work in peace and harmony, and so great was the press of candidates even at this early date, for the Lodge was but a few days old, that resolutions restricting the acceptance of fresh candidates were made in open Lodge and carried. The Lodge now

Sept. 16.

devoted itself to the work of initiating some of those candidates who were on their list. One of the candidates proposed for initiation seems to have been lame in his right leg, the result of an accident, which appears to have caused some discussion in the Lodge as to his fitness for initiation. A letter was therefore addressed to the P. G. Lodge on the subject, but what the reply was there is no evidence in the records to show.\* Up to now it had

Oct. 7.

been customary for strangers to be invited to refreshment; Bro. Williams (who had only been initiated that night) proposed that except on the two festivals, no non-Masons should be invited to refreshment; this was carried unanimously, and as there were twenty-three brethren sitting in Lodge at the time, it may fairly be considered as embodying the wishes of the brethren. This rule has been observed by Lodge "St. John" ever since, and has become one of the by-laws.†

Oct. 12.

As is only too common in Indian Lodges, some of the newly initiated brothers were ordered away from the station, and the Lodge was therefore obliged to expedite the granting of degrees, and thus we for the first time obtain a record of the working of the second degree, which was followed by the third, some of the candidates who were leaving the station taking both degrees on the same night. The question of by-laws still seemed to be exercising Bro.

Oct. 14.

Atkinson, for he despatched a copy of them to the Government Press, Madras, on the 14th October. It will be remembered that he had already sent a copy of the by-laws to Bro. Peile with a request that they should be printed. To this he appears to have received no answer, and thus he communicates direct with the press, and orders 100 copies on parchment or vellum, with a margin two inches broad. Can it be possible that the missing pages of the Minute Book, above referred to, contained the by-laws, which were thus a second time sent to Madras for the purpose of being printed?

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\*The question is a curious one. The writer as Worshipful Master of a Lodge once initiated a very worthy brother whose feet by a birth-malformation were inverted. An objection was made that he could not be legally initiated because he could not bring his feet into the proper position. The objection was overruled on the ground that he had to stand in a certain position which he could do as well with his toes as with his heels.

† The by-law was cancelled in 1904.

Bro. Atkinson's work as Secretary is so scrupulously neat that it can hardly be conceived that he would mutilate his Minute Book to obtain a copy of the by-laws to send to Madras, but still the possibility exists.

Oct. 21.

We now come to a most interesting feature in the Lodge-working at that time, and that is the opening of the Lodge on the "fourth" degree as Bro. Atkinson describes it. This was the ceremony of passing the Chair, and one which was constantly rehearsed in those days, as introductory to the Royal Arch. In describing the ceremony, Bro. Atkinson writes as follows: "Bro. Morton, a member of the Lodge, having previously arrived to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, was introduced and passed the Chair in due and ancient form, according to the Constitutions and usages of ancient Masonry." The Lodge appears to have met at all hours

Oct. 28.

of the day or night, in order to cope with the large number of candidates who were being so constantly proposed at Meetings (even though there were Meetings of Emergency). On one occasion the Lodge was closed in harmony at 10 o'clock, on another at a quarter before two, though it is not stated if this latter Meeting was in the morning or the afternoon!! But though the Lodge was busy with its initiations, passings, and raisings, to say nothing of

Nov. 4.

"passing brethren through the Chair," that most important item, charity, was not forgotten, and we find Bro. Robertson proposing that a sum of money should be remitted to the distressed inhabitants of Ireland. This was seconded by Bro. Downes, who is described as a P. M. Subsequently, on discussion, the subscription was raised, not on behalf of the inhabitants of Ireland, but on behalf of the poor brethren of that country; this subscription will be referred to later on. A curious custom is here noted on the Minutes for the first time, and that is the custom of regularly proposing and seconding each brother for the 2°, 3° or 4°, as the case may be. It was by no means an accepted fact that a brother after having taken the first degree would of necessity take the remaining degrees in due course. Of this we shall hear more later on. It is only inserted in this place to show that the custom was prevalent in the early days of the Lodge. Another curious clerical error is the invariable method of spelling cavalry as *cavelry*, the more so as Bro. Atkinson was himself a military man, and should have been conversant with the method of spelling the name of this important branch of the Service. But being himself in an Infantry Regiment he may be excused. At last Bro. Atkinson's desire for printed by-laws was gratified. Bro. Peile had not forgotten the commission, but had been waiting for a favourable opportunity of sending the printed by-laws by hand, and as a certain Capt. Willows, of the 16th Regiment, was coming to Secunderabad, the parcel was entrusted to him. Bro. Peile,

however, retained the original copy of by-laws, probably for reference in his own office. At the same time Bro. Peile applied to Bro. Atkinson for the Christian names of the founders of the Lodge, in order that he might make out the Warrant of the Lodge. These were furnished at once by Bro. Atkinson.

The brethren seem to have been most conscientious in attending Lodge Meetings, so much so that Bro. Morton, one of the  
**Nov. 5.** founders, finding himself unable to attend Lodge Meetings regularly, which he remarks, "we are obliged to do agreeable to our O.B.," tendered his resignation, at the same time stating that his desire to resign was "not from any disrespect to the Lodge."

The question of the distress in Ireland seems to have engrossed the attention of the brethren considerably in Lodge, and as  
**Nov. 14.** other subscription lists had been circulated, the Lodge subscription was proposed to be confined to the Masonic brethren in Ireland. This subscription amounted to Halli Sicca Rupees 530.\* Another

curious custom at this date was the method of opening  
**Nov. 28.** and closing. The Lodge opened on the first degree, transacted its business in that degree, after which it was closed in the first and opened on the second, closed on the second and opened on the

third and so forth. As would be only natural after the  
**Dec. 2.** very lengthy business which was now occupying the Lodge, the brethren began to consider the question of refreshments, and practical Bro. Atkinson seems to be the first to suggest a solution of the refreshment question. He proposes that the sum of three rupees be paid monthly for dues, etc., instead of two, out of which will be provided a cold collation on each Regular Lodge Meeting.

**Dec. 4.** The interest taken in the ceremonial work of the Lodge at this time was wonderful, no less than 32 members being present at a Meeting held on December 4th, in which all three degrees were worked. Bro. Light again introduced the question of the Irish relief subscription, which seems to have been a standing dish in the Lodge. He proposed that the Lodge should add a sum to that already subscribed by the brethren, which by the way had given some trouble in the matter of collection. At a subsequent Meeting, however, this proposition was

lost. The first mention of any specific place of Meeting  
**Dec. 7.** in Secunderabad occurs in the Minutes of a Lodge of Emergency held on December 7th, which was held in Bro. Milne's house. As, however, only the fourth degree was worked, it is quite possible that Bro. Milne lent his house for this occasion, as the Meeting was a small

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\* Approximating £50.

one, 15 brethren being present. Time was now progressing, and as St.

**Dec. 23.** John's Day was approaching, it became necessary to select some brother to succeed Bro. Kingsley as Master. At

a Meeting held on December 23rd, 1822, Bro. Kingsley proposed Bro. Robertson as his successor, which was seconded by Bro. Williams. An amendment was put forward by Bro. Skirrow, seconded by Bro. Light, that Bro. Kingsley remain in office. A ballot, therefore, was taken, which resulted in the election of Bro. Robertson. The question of premises, too, seems to have occupied the attention of the brethren, and Bro. Mackintosh had evidently made an offer of assistance either in the matter of money, or some other facility for building a Lodge room. What this offer was it is difficult to say, as it was not recorded in any way in the Lodge transactions. The Lodge, however, passed a vote of thanks to Bro. Macintosh for "the very handsome and liberal manner in which he had come forward to assist in the building of the Lodge room," and the Worshipful Master proposed that immediately after St. John's Day preparations for building should be commenced. This was seconded by Bro. Wright. Votes of thanks were tendered to the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer for their services since the foundation of the Lodge. Some discussion seems to have taken place relative to the ball to be held on St. John's Day, one brother, Bro. Baker, proposing that it should be held on 6th January; this was negatived. This Meeting, which commenced at half-past six, did not terminate till half-past ten, and even then the business of the evening was not fully disposed of, for the brethren

**Dec. 24.** met next day at the Public Rooms (now occupied by Messrs. Badham Pile, Limited) at 7 o'clock and worked the 3°; there must have been other business, as the Lodge did not close till 10 o'clock. What the business was is not recorded.

**Dec. 26.** The Public Rooms seem now to have been the regular place of Meeting, and on the day preceding St. John's Day, the brethren again met there and worked the 1° and 3°.

Early in the morning on this the first St. John's Day in the history of

**St. John in** the Lodge, the brethren were astir, as indeed they had to  
**Winter, 1822.** be, as Lodge was opened at 6-30 A.M. in the Public Rooms, which would have necessitated on the part of

some, if not most of the brethren, a start from their homes at least before 5-30. The first degree was conferred upon Lieuts. Brown of the 3rd "Cavalry," and Leacock of the 15th Regiment N. I., in the presence of 28 brethren. The Lodge was "called off" and met again at Bro. Milne's House at 10-30, when the brethren went to church, whence they returned at 1 P.M., which would seem to imply a very long sermon from the Rev. Henry Harpur, the Chaplain, who dined with the Lodge this day.

This dinner would probably be held in the middle of the day or in the afternoon, as was the custom in the early part of this century in India. The Lodge resumed labour again at six in the evening for the important business of the day, that is to say the Installation. For this purpose the Lodge was closed in the first and opened on the fourth degree!! no mention being made of an opening on the other degrees. Thus was Bro. Robertson installed as W. M. of Lodge "St. John" and afterwards received honours from the brethren according to their respective degrees. The ceremony was not a long one, as the Lodge was closed in peace and harmony at 7 P.M., probably with a view to making due preparation for the ball, which was to form the entertainment of the evening.

It is particularly gratifying to note that Bro. Robertson re-appointed Bro. Atkinson as his Secretary, thus affording the historian comparatively little trouble in gathering together the leading points in the history of the Lodge. Bro. Robertson on succession to office found two important letters awaiting him. The first was the arrival of the Warrant, which was dated August 16th, the same date as the Provisional Warrant under which the Lodge had been already working. Together with the Warrant Bro.

Letters from  
G. Lodge  
regarding  
charities,  
Dec. 16.

Peile sent copies of the Articles of Union between the two Grand Lodges of England, and a copy of the Provincial Grand Lodge By-Laws, at the same time calling Bro. Atkinson's attention to Article 23 of these by-laws which contained that very important item, in Bro. Peile's estimation, the fees payable on the opening of a new Lodge. The second letter referred to, contained a circular addressed to the Lodge of "Perfect Unanimity," No. 248, Madras, from William White and Edward Harpur, Grand Secretaries, regarding the decision of the Grand Lodge of England to remit the quaterages of Colonial Lodges hitherto paid to the Grand Lodge Fund of Benevolence. Bro. Peile in his covering letter conveys the R. W. Ag. D. G. Master's desire that the amount previously sent as quarterage should be contributed towards the then Madras Masonic

Charity Fund, which Bro. Peile describes as being at that time "at a low ebb." Before proceeding further, it is necessary to say some few words as regards Bro. Kingsley's work as Master. The present-day Mason at Secunderabad would smile incredulously if he were to be told that in four months a Master succeeded in performing 29 initiations, 27 passings, 11 raisings, besides the Past Master's or fourth degree, which was probably conferred upon 21 brethren during the few months that Bro. Kingsley ruled the Lodge. The total accession to the Lodge during this eventful period was 35, making a total membership of 52. Even the most exacting, at the present day, could hardly wish for more in the matter of ceremonies, while the membership is more than creditable and speaks well for

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the condition of Freemasonry in Secunderabad at this date. Bro. Atkinson, in continuing his Secretarial duties, inaugurated a new method of recording those present in Lodge. He gives a full list of the members, adding after their names the following remarks: "absent," "leave of absence," "sick" or "duty," as the case might be. It is quite conceivable that Bro. Atkinson, with his usual military habits, called the Muster Roll of the Lodge at each Meeting, and thus was able to ascertain those reasons which prevented the brethren from attending Lodge\*—a matter regarding which they were very particular, as Bro. Morton's previous letter regarding his resignation will show. A further discussion of the premises question ended in a Committee of the W. M. and his officers, together with Bro. Milne (who had previously placed his house at the disposal of the Lodge on various occasions) being appointed for the purpose of selecting a site and preparing a plan and estimate for permanent Lodge premises.

Bro. Robertson seems to have followed the example of Bro. Kingsley in a most praiseworthy manner, for on the 13th and 20th of January he devoted the attention of the Lodge to ceremonial work. A very noteworthy fact seems to be the duration of these Meetings, which used to average generally three hours or more; it was quite an "early" night when the Lodge closed at 9-30 at night, after which the brethren sat down to a "cold collation"! On January 15, Bro. Williams seems to have been troubled with conscientious scruples as to his attendance at Lodge, and accordingly tendered his resignation, stating as his reason for so doing his "domestic pursuits," whatever these may have been. Bro. Robertson seems to have been a most conscientious Master, for one of his first acts on becoming Master was to make a study of the Provincial By-Laws, which appear to have suggested certain difficulties to his mind, the first of these being the question of the candidate's age. Previous to the receipt of the Provincial By-Laws, no less than five candidates, all aged 20 years, had been initiated; the fact that the age prescribed by the Provincial By-Laws was 21 years seems to have caused him some uneasiness, which led him to address Bro. Peile, not through his Secretary, but personally, as follows:—

*To the Worshipful the Provincial Grand Secretary on the Coast of  
Coromandel, Madras.*

MY DEAR AND RESPECTED BROTHER,

By the Code of By-Laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge lately sent to us, I have observed that a candidate for Masonry is required to be of the full age of 21 years. Since the receipt of this law, no initiation has taken place

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\* A rule which might well be followed now.

under the prescribed age, but with all due submission I beg leave to offer my opinion that amongst military men, where opportunities seldom occur of getting initiated, a rigid observance of the letter of this law will considerably tend to check that diffusion of Masonic knowledge which it is so desirable to communicate to all that are found deserving of it. I do not mean to advocate the propriety of indiscriminately admitting to our ancient and honourable fraternity candidates of any age, but I think when one of 19 years is found to possess steady and regular habits, together with the other necessary qualifications, he might be admitted with perfect safety to our order, and I have seen many cases in point both in this country and in Europe. May I, therefore, request you will take an early opportunity of submitting these considerations for the decision of the Most Worshipful the Grand Master. I have also to advert to another article in the above by-laws, *viz.*, that which prohibits Masonic processions without special or general authority from the Provincial Grand Master.

As our situation is too remote from the Presidency to admit of application being made for SPECIAL leave, under circumstances which might occur (for instance the death of a brother who should be desirous of the Lodge attending his funeral, and who should be deemed worthy of that honour), may I beg leave to request you will have the goodness to solicit the Most Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, in the name of the Worshipful Master and Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 13, that GENERAL AUTHORITY be granted to them to form Masonic processions whenever it shall appear to them expedient, and you may safely rely that such a respectable body will never abuse the indulgence.

I remain,

SECUNDERABAD, }  
31st January, 1823. }

Respected Brother, yours faithfully,  
N. McD. ROBERTSON, W.M.

The requests contained in the above letter were apparently not sanctioned, as in the Minutes of the Meeting of the Lodge on the 19th July, 1823, the following item is recorded:—"A letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary in answer to one written respecting initiation

under the age of 21 and funerals is read to the Lodge " and is recorded without further remark. Two Meetings were held in the month of February, at which the three degrees were worked, candidates proposed for initiation, and certain Bro. proposed "to pass the chair." Probably on account of the heat, only one Meeting was held in March, the Lodge met at "half-past six o'clock and *opened* on the *third* degree of Masonry"! Two fellow crafts "passed an examination on the second degree to the satisfaction of the brethren present" and were raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons.

It is noteworthy that the Lodge opened on the 3<sup>d</sup> right away, two fellow crafts being present at such opening.

This Lodge then closed in the 3° and opened in the 1° for ballot. After one initiation at the first Meeting in April, the Lodge closed in the 1° and opened in the 4° for the purpose of proposing four Past Masters for the Royal Arch degree; this is the first record of the Royal Arch degree being worked in Secunderabad. It is a noticeable fact that at the time of the above proposition the Lodge consisted of 49 members, of whom no less than 35 were passed Masters, *i.e.*, had passed the Chair, which was the qualification for the Royal Arch in those days. \*

Lodge closed on the fourth degree and opened on the first, and it was resolved to hold a Lodge of Emergency, to clear off the work which was accumulating, at Bro. Milne's house. This Meeting does not appear, however, to have come off, as there is no record of it on the Minute Book.

Routine work of propositions for the 3° and 4° were made, and it was resolved that "the funds of the Lodge be vested in the hands of Messrs. Palmer & Co.," the big banking firm of Hyderabad. The Lodge closed in harmony at 9 o'clock.

Notwithstanding the excessive heat of April, a second Meeting was held on the 21st of April. "Opened on the first degree of Masonry, the entered apprentices and fellow crafts were requested to retire, when the Lodge closed on the first degree and opened on the third; the Master Masons were then requested to retire, when the Lodge closed on the third degree and opened on the fourth." A brother then passed the Chair, "closed on the fourth and opened on the third." A brother was raised, "closed on the third degree and opened on the first."

Resolved, "that the Meetings of the Lodge be deferred till the first Monday in June, in consequence of the extreme heat of the weather;" yet strange to say, the above resolution notwithstanding, we find two Meetings held in May! Evidently the zeal of the brethren was even hotter than the weather.

Bro. MacIntosh forwards "a bill for three hundred rupees for the purpose of assisting in the building of a Lodge room." The brethren passed a vote of thanks to Bro. MacIntosh for his handsome donation. It is evident, therefore, that the subject of a Lodge building had been under discussion amongst

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\* There is no record of any charter for a R. A. Chapter at this time, nor are there any Minutes of the Chapter's Proceedings. (Refer to history of the R. A. Chapter.)

the brethren, although this is the first actual record of any practical step being taken.

The month of June opened somewhat inauspiciously with two resignations; in one case the brother states "my reason for so doing is in consequence of two or three brethren, junior Masons to me, being raised to the degree of Royal Arch before me." The other brother is still more aggrieved at not being deemed fit to be made a Royal Arch Mason and plainly states, "Bro. Dalrymple, who has been only as many *months* a *Mason* as I have been years a *Past Master*, was deemed *more worthy* to be raised, in consequence I beg leave to retire from the Lodge."

From the above it is clear that Wor. Master Robertson, who was probably the first Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter, and the members of the Chapter were determined not to allow the honor of membership of the Chapter to become too cheap, although on the face of it both the retiring brothers appear to have had a grievance, as both assisted at the formation of the Lodge originally. And from the tone of their letters their having been "overlooked" and "others preferred before them" evidently rankled in their minds. The usual Fortnightly Meetings were not sufficient to satisfy the zealous Masons of "St. John's" in this month, for we find that

June 5.      18.  
 "      18.  
 "      24.      three Meetings were held and a large amount of ceremonies got through, the 1<sup>o</sup>, 2<sup>o</sup>, 3<sup>o</sup> and 4<sup>o</sup> were worked, and several candidates proposed for initiation.

On the 5th of June it was resolved unanimously "That the Tyler's fees. Tylers receive for each degree one rupee." No mention is made so far in this proceedings of the office of "Inner Guard," and it is probable that the "Tyler's" referred to were the Outer and Inner Guard.\*

The election for "the ensuing six months" resulted in Bro. Robertson being re-elected Master and Bro. Williams, Junior Treasurer.

June 18.

The "cold collation" was not evidently much in favour, for ere that it was resolved "That the brethren meet and have a Masonic Dinner on the 24th instant (St. John's Day) in the evening" and "carried by a large majority." It was also unanimously resolved that "The Rev. Mr. Bankes be invited as a visiting brother to dinner on the 24th in the name of the Lodge."

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\* In the sequel it will be seen that in another Lodge (Deccan) there were sometimes *two* Tylers.

At 6-30 A.M. the Lodge opened on the first degree and an initiation took place after some routine work, including a petition from Bro. MacIntosh (subject not mentioned), upon which it was unanimously resolved "that the prayer of the petition be granted." The entered apprentices were requested to retire and the Lodge was closed on the 1° and opened on the 3°; two Bros. passed a satisfactory examination in this degree, the Master Masons then retired, the 3° was closed and 4° opened, and two brothers passed the chair. Lodge closed on 4°, opened on 1°, and called from labour to refreshment—not a bad morning's work. At half-past six in the evening the Lodge opened again, and Bro. Williams "was invested with the jewel of office as Treasurer, in conformity with the unanimous vote of the brethren; the late Treasurer's accounts being audited and passed were delivered over to the new Treasurer in open Lodge." Now this was all very business-like and proper as regards the Treasurer, but no mention whatever is made of the Master, Bro. Robertson being installed either at the morning or evening Meeting, possibly it was not considered necessary as he was continuing in office. As the Lodge closed in the evening at quarter before seven, fifteen minutes after it was opened, it is evident that the auditing and passing of accounts did not take very long, and could hardly have been done in a very thorough manner.

At the Regular Lodge Meeting on the 7th July one brother passed the chair and some routine propositions were made.

July 9.  
Prince Futtih  
Oulah Khan.

The following letter addressed by W. M. Robertson to the Provincial Grand Secretary is curious, and is therefore transcribed at length:—

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE GRAND SECRETARY on the Coast of Coromandel.  
RESPECTED BROTHER,

I beg leave to inform you that I have been repeatedly and urgently solicited by the Persian Prince, Futtih Oulah Khan, to initiate him into the mysteries of our ancient and honourable fraternity, but it appearing that some years ago the Prince, by the malevolence of his enemies, became a eunuch, doubts have arisen in the minds of several of our brethren, in which I participate, whether His Highness is eligible to become a member of our Order.

It is by no means my wish to place too rigid a construction on the laws of our society, but when any matter arises, which is not sufficiently obvious in all its bearing, I think it much better to refer it to the decision of competent authority than to run a risk of falling into error by acting under circumstances of ambiguity.

I have, therefore, to request you will be good enough to obtain the Most Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master's opinion on the above case and transmit it to me as soon as you conveniently can, as the Prince is about to return to Persia.

I remain,  
Respected Brother,  
Yours most faithfully,  
W. M. ROBERTSON.

LODGE ROOM, }  
SECUNDERABAD, }  
9th July, 1823. }

The records do not contain any reply to the above letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary, nor do the old lists of members of "St. John's" contain the name of the unfortunate Persian Prince; it is, therefore, to be concluded that "the malevolence of his enemies" effectually barred his admission into the fraternity, and he must have returned to Persia a sadder, though not Masonically a wiser, man.

July 19. One initiation and one passing the chair besides routine work was done at the Regular Fortnightly Meeting held on the 19th July.

Aug. 10. One Meeting was held in August, when the 1° and 2° were worked.

The subject of a site for the Lodge building also occupied the attention of the brethren and a Communication received from Colonel Botes "relative to the ground whereon to build a lodge" was negatived. No clue is given as to the nature of this "Communication. Bro. Meikle is thanked for the very handsome manner in which he has come forward in support thereof." This also conveys but little meaning, as it is not stated what Bro. Meikle did.

Aug. 18. The following letter is most interesting in connection with the early working of the Royal Arch degree:—  
Royal Arch. TO THE MOST EXCELLENT HIGH PRIEST OF LODGE NO. 30, UNDER THE GRAND REGISTRY OF IRELAND.

MOST EXCELLENT BROTHER,

I am directed by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge of "St. John," No. 13, to acquaint you that a vote of thanks was entered on the Minutes of the Lodge for the favour you did the brethren in giving them the use of Warrant No. 30 for the time they had it.

I remain,  
Most Excellent Brother,  
Yours very sincerely,  
W. ATKINSON,  
Secretary.

SECUNDERABAD, }  
18th August, 1823. }

Unfortunately the old Royal Arch records are all missing, the earliest extant being dated 22nd December, 1852. 'The above letter, however, shows that a separate warrant for the Royal Arch was considered advisable; it is, however, exceedingly probable that both before and after the return of Warrant No. 30 the Royal Arch degree as well as the Knight Templar and Knight of Malta degrees were worked under the Craft Warrant of Lodge "St. John."

The only item of importance at the Meeting held on  
**Sept. 1.** the 1st of September was the following letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary, which was read in open Lodge:—

TO THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF LODGE "SAINT JOHN'S," No. 13.

RESPECTED BROTHER,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 14th instant giving cover to a remittance of 89 rupees, being the amount of dues and registrar fees for the quarter ending the 30th June.

Having communicated to the R. W. the A. P. G. Master, Bro. George Lys, your desire for forming a Masonic procession for the purpose of  
**Lodge building.** laying the foundation stone of your Masonic Mansion in October next, he has directed me to acquaint you that he has much pleasure in according to you his sanction of the measure, and at the same time to express to you his hearty good wishes for the success of your present undertaking, in which accept that of Respected Brother.

Your very faithful Brother,

MADRAS, }  
 25th August, 1823. }

C. F. PEILE,  
 P. G. Secretary.

Two routine propositions were made at this Meeting, and a considerable discussion took place on the subject of *refreshment*, caused by Bro. Kingsley proposing that the Resolution previously passed by the Lodge for an evening dinner on the occasion of laying the foundation stone "be carried into effect to the *fullest extent*." What was the fullest extent exactly meant is not explained, but the proposition was "carried by a majority." A brother then made the following proposition: "That in future a paper be sent round before every extra entertainment, and that members who do not put down their names or partake of the same are not obliged to pay for it." This was also carried, although Bro. Kingsley "enters a protest against it, as far as excluding the festival of St. John's Day, because its being kept up tends to promote harmony and brotherly love among Masons."

This Meeting closed in harmony at half-past-nine o'clock.

A batch of five resignations sent in at the end of September show that some friction existed in the Lodge. One Brother writes: "Cir-

cumstances which cannot be fully explained, but intent in their nature, render it necessary that I should withdraw from No. 13."

**Oct. 6.** Another Bro. writes resigning "for reasons I cannot exactly explain." At the first Meeting in October two more resignations were made in open Lodge, and one candidate was initiated.

The sum of Rs. 459-6-1, raised amongst the members of the Lodge by "voluntary contribution," was forwarded to the P. G. Secretary, Madras, with a request that the same be forwarded to the Grand Lodge of Ireland for "the poor brethren of that part of the United Kingdom."

The Lodge met on the 22nd October "(agreeable to summons)"  
**Oct. 22.** opened on the 2<sup>o</sup>, then opened on the 3<sup>o</sup>, raised a candidate, closed on the 3<sup>o</sup> and opened on the first, when two propositions were made.

"PROPOSITION 1: Worshipful Master Robertson proposes that the funds of the Royal Arch Chapter belonging to No. 13  
**Royal Arch.** Lodge shall be united with the funds of the Craft Degrees, and thereby be consolidated into one Fund."—*Carried unanimously.*

From which it is clear that the fact of returning Warrant No. 30 alluded to on page 9 had by no means stopped the working of this degree.

The second proposal, which was only carried by a majority of one  
**Lodge build-** vote, was "that the house and land of Van Heythayson  
**ing.** be purchased and a Lodge room erected thereon."

Two Meetings were held in November on the 3rd and 17th, the 2<sup>o</sup>  
**Nov. 3.** and 3<sup>o</sup> were worked, and at the latter Meeting Worshipful  
 „ 17. Master Robertson most naively "stated to the Lodge that he has got possession of the compound at the east of his own which he considers to be more eligible for the building of a Lodge than the one intended. He now puts it to the vote whether it shall be fixed upon for the erection of the Lodge room." It is needless to add that this artless proposal was immediately *carried unanimously.*

Meetings were held on the 2nd, 15th and 27th (St. John's Day).  
**Dec.** Only one degree, the 2<sup>o</sup>, was worked at the first Meeting on the 15th. Bro. Robertson was again re-elected Master, and Bro. Yolland, Treasurer.

The following excellent proposition by Worshipful Master Robinson was carried unanimously: "That any member proposing a candidate for Masonry or a brother for a step will be held answerable for the amount

of his fees, in the event of their not being paid when due." It will be remembered that not only had a candidate to be proposed and seconded for initiation, but the procedure had also to be followed for the 2°, 3° and 4°, the members vouching for him being responsible for his fees.

"Brother Hallock, of the Veteran Lodge at Harwick," was elected a member for the purpose of being appointed Tyler.

The total members are recorded as 49, of which no less than 12 are Past Masters.

At half-past six in the morning on St. John's Day, Bro. Robertson  
 Dec. 27. opened his Lodge in the 1° and forthwith proceeded to invest all his officers for the ensuing six months with their jewels of office, after which the Lodge is called from labour to refreshment, meeting again at six in the evening and closing twenty minutes later.

Apparently no installation ceremony was performed and no degrees worked.

The only proposition is made by the Worshipful Master of a vote of thanks "to our late Bro. Secretary" who has officiated for three periods "and to the other past officers of the Lodge." *Carried unanimously.* All things considered, there can be no question that with the departure of Bro. Secretary Atkinson the Lodge lost perhaps its most painstaking officer; his Minutes and Returns are models of neatness and accuracy rarely equalled even in the present day.

The Regular Meeting of the Lodge was held on the 5th January; no  
 1824. degrees were worked and the business was of a purely  
 Jan. 5. formal and routine nature. A Resolution was passed "that such brethren as were prevented from attending our Masonic Entertainment on St. John's Day by being on the sick report or on duty shall be exempted from paying for the liquor drank on that occasion," which leads one to think that the bill for drinks at "our Masonic Entertainment" must have been a stiff one.

It is also resolved "that as new certificates have been received of a more approved pattern than the former, such as have been granted by the Lodge shall be recalled and destroyed and new ones granted, the Lodge bearing the expense."

The usual Fortnightly Meeting was held on the 19th January; no  
 Jan. 19. degrees but the following two propositions were made and both carried unanimously regarding the proposed

Lodge premises. "Bro. Meikle lays before the Lodge a plan of the intended new Lodge and proposes it being acted upon immediately."

"Proposed from the chair and seconded by Bro. Meikle, "that a Committee consisting of the present officers and *ex-officers* of the Lodge and Bros. Wray and Chauval be appointed to superintend the erection of the new Lodge."

It is thus seen that the building scheme for a Freemasons' Hall is rapidly ripening, after various discussions in Lodge regarding a suitable site; this difficulty is overcome by Worshipful Master Robertson "getting possession" of the compound next to his own house, about 5,000 rupees are deposited by the Lodge with the banking firm of Messrs. William Palmer & Co., of Hyderabad; Bro. Meikle produces a plan of the proposed building which is approved, a Committee is appointed, and it only now remains to level and truly lay the foundation stone and erect the building.

At the two Regular Meetings in February, no work was done and only a few routine proposals made. The engrossing  
 Feb. 3. topic seems to have been the new Lodge. At the latter  
 " 21 Meeting we find first that it is unanimously resolved  
 to have "a public breakfast to be paid for from the funds." An  
 amendment "that a public breakfast be given by the  
 Lodge build- brethren to the ladies and that dancing commence after  
 ing. breakfast" is perhaps wisely rejected by the brethren.  
 A dance commencing at noon in the middle of March was hardly likely to recommend itself to the brethren.

That laying the foundation stone should be an imposing ceremony, the Lodge resolves "that a public intimation be sent round stating the day on which the foundation stone of the new Lodge is to be laid, and that such brethren as may wish to assist at the ceremony will have places allotted for them in the procession, breakfasting after the ceremony."

The records for the month of March are most disappointing on account of their extreme brevity, the Regular Meeting  
 Mar. 1. on the 1st of March was sparsely attended, no work  
 was done on the 11th March, however a Lodge of Emergency was  
 summoned at 6 A.M., 22 members being present, and two  
 Mar. 11. visitors, one who is described as "Bro. Ward of West-  
 minster or Keystone Lodge, No. 10." All that is recorded regarding  
 the actual ceremony of laying the foundation stone is contained in two  
 lines as follows :—

"The brethren now proceeded in procession from the Public Rooms to the new Lodge, where the foundation stone was laid in due, ancient

and masonic forms, brethren return in procession," and the Lodge is closed in harmony at 8 A.M.

Nothing calling for remark occurred at the Meetings  
**April & May.** held on the 5th April and 4th May.

**June 21.** On the 21st of June Bro. Meikle is elected Master, and Bro. Yolland re-elected Treasurer.

It was resolved "that in consequence of the Public Rooms not being disposable for the purpose there be no public dinner on the evening of St. John's night, but that the public breakfast be held as usual." Carried by a large majority. Accordingly the usual Meeting on St. John's Day was held,

**June 24.** the Lodge meeting in the morning (time not specified) and is opened in the 2nd degree, one brother expresses a wish to be raised to 3° by Wor. Master Robertson before he leaves the Lodge who rules that "he be raised accordingly to the sublime degree of Master Mason, though he has not served the regulated time, this is not to be held up as a precedent in any future case," the third degree is then worked, Lodge opened in the fourth degree, and Bro. Meikle installed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing six months, closed in 4°, opened in 3°, closed in 3°, opened in 2°, closed in 2°, opened in 1°, when Past Master Wright "is called up and appointed acting Past Master and invested with the jewel of office" as are all the other regular officers of the Lodge; no mention is, however, made of an Inner Guard, nor apparently was the Tyler invested.

The only item of note in the Meeting held on the 12th July is a letter which is read to the Lodge from Lieut. Ager  
**July.** "expressing his contrition and making an apology for his conduct on the 9th of September, 1822;" although not stated, it would also appear that Lieut. Ager wished to join the Lodge, for a ballot was forthwith held, and he was unanimously elected a member of the Lodge.\*

"From the returns forwarded to Grand Lodge on the 24th June, 1824, it would appear that the total members of the Lodge number 47; of these 23 are "absent," 3 are "retired," leaving the balance 21 on the active list.

There is no record of any Meeting in the month of August, the next Meeting being held on the 16th of September when the  
**Sept. 16.** Lodge was opened and closed in the first degree, no working of any kind being done; the Lodge meets again on the 25th  
**Sept. 25.** September, when it would appear that the Lodge building is erected, for Worshipful Master Meikle proposes "that a subscription for furnishing the Lodge be opened to such brethren as

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\* See page 10.

may feel inclined to subscribe thereto, and that at the same time an estimate be formed and circulated as to the probable expense. That this subscription be opened to brethren who belonged to the Lodge, but who have left the station." "Carried by a large majority," and at the following Meeting on the 25th October "Worshipful Master Meikle proposes that this Lodge Rooms be open to Lodge No. 30 of H. M. 30th Regiment on application to the Worshipful Master."—*Carried unanimously*. From this Resolution it is clear that Lodge "St. John" was at length working in its own premises, the foundation stone of which was laid seven months previously on the 11th March.

Regular Meetings were held on the 15th November and 6th December, at which routine work was conducted at the latter Meeting, Lieut. Ager taking his seat in Lodge.

The election of Worshipful Master and Treasurer took place on the 20th December, Bro. Meikle again being re-elected Worshipful Master. Very little work was done in the last three months of this year, the 2<sup>o</sup> only having been once worked on the 15th November.

Lodge opened according to custom at 6-30 A.M., and a number of propositions were made, and ballots taken for "candidates" and "steps," the Lodge called from labour to refreshment at 8-30 A.M., and re-assembling again at 6 P.M. "The jewels of office having been delivered in," indicating that the offices are vacant, the newly-appointed officers are duly invested. No installation ceremony took place.

The two Meetings in January were sparsely attended, the first degree was worked on the 17th, but evidently the Lodge was not in very flourishing circumstances, as at the latter Meeting it is unanimously resolved "that on account of the small number of members an additional rupee be added to the monthly subscription, the present subscription not being sufficient to defray the current expenses, but only to continue so long as may be found necessary."

The returns to the 24th December, 1824, show the total strength as 24, of which seven are "absent," leaving a balance of only 17 on the full paying list. Worshipful Master Meikle, however, sends off his returns and fees punctually to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Madras. Signing himself,

"Yours very faithfully on the  
GEORGE MEIKLE."

Only a few unimportant propositions were made at the first Meeting in March, but on the 21st March the vitality of the Lodge is increased, and the three degrees are worked and evidently Worshipful Master Meikle has satisfactorily settled the friction that had previously caused so many resignations, for we find the following Resolutions carried unanimously "that those brethren who have retired from the Lodge in a manner not disrespectful, and who may be inclined to return, be again re-admitted," a cautious brother added the rider "that the above proposition be not considered as a precedent and not to apply to any member hereafter retiring." The Lodge did not close till 10 P.M., the brethren all evidently in great good temper, for we find the last Resolution, as follows: "that a small stock of good liquors be procured and kept in the Lodge godown for the benefit of the members of the Lodge;" need it be added that this last Resolution was also *carried unanimously*.

A member applies for the use of the Banqueting room for an entertainment which is sanctioned with the rider "that the furniture of the Lodge be not taken on any occasion except for Masonic purposes." The Meeting on the 18th April was purely formal.

The accounts of the Lodge building were submitted by the Committee to the Lodge at the Meeting held on the 9th May and were duly signed by the Worshipful Master. "They show a balance due to Worshipful Master Meikle, Hyderabad, Rs. 3,149-9-9 being cash advanced by him for the purpose of completing the building of the Lodge."

At the Meeting of the Lodge on the 6th June which opened at half-past 7 P.M. the 3<sup>o</sup> was worked and the following proposition by the Worshipful Master was "ordered to be entered upon the records of the Proceedings." "When the building of St. John's Lodge, No. 13, commenced at this station, the funds belonging to the Lodge did not exceed some 5 or 6,000 rupees. The plan, however, that was laid as was afterwards ascertained required a much larger sum, and the Lodge would have remained in an unfinished state had not our Worshipful Master Brother George Meikle come forward and advanced such sums from time to time as were required for the completion of the original plan, to an amount from his private means considerably above 3,000 rupees, and for which sum he declined burdening the funds of the Lodge with any interest. Now brethren, it is proper that we should legally secure him (Bro. George Meikle) in the repayment of the money still due, some having been refunded, amounting to

Rs. 3,149-9-9, until the growing funds of the Lodge are able finally to discharge the debt; on these points my brethren I now solicit your guidance and advice. I beg leave to suggest that we should manifest towards Bro. George Meikle our feelings of gratefulness for the zeal evinced by him for the Craft in general, but more particularly for this Lodge. He having made the large advance before specified, without which the building most likely would never have been finished, consequently the Craft could not hold their Meetings in a Lodge of their own, but by Bro. Meikle's excessive liberality we are now rendered independent and not subject to the pleasures of others for accommodation, being at this moment assembled in our own Lodge, and so great an advantage obtained through the kindness of an individual brother I am sure is highly appreciated by the whole of the brethren as well as myself. I accordingly propose that our sense of the same should appear on the records of our Proceedings, and that steps be taken to secure Bro. Meikle in the repayment of the balance still due to him."

Bro. Douglas, of Corinthian Lodge, No. 14, was a visitor at this

June 20.

Meeting which closed at the late hour of 10-30 P.M. Bro. Dalrymple is re-elected Worshipful Master on the 20th of June, and Bro. Haldane, Treasurer. A further Resolution was passed regarding the debt due to Bro. Meikle that a Committee consisting

June 24.

of the officers of the Lodge should carry out the terms of the proposition made by the Worshipful Master at the last Meeting, which was carried unanimously. On St. John's Day the Lodge opened at 6-30 A.M. A number of routine propositions are made. "Visiting Bro. Trevon of the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, No. 210, is proposed as a joining member, ballotted for on the spot which is found to be unanimous and Bro. Trevon is admitted a member accordingly at 8 A.M., the brethren are called from labour to refreshment, re-assembling again at 6 P.M., Bro. Douglas of Corinthian Lodge, No. 14, being a visitor. "The jewels of office are delivered in" all below the rank of Past Masters were called upon to retire. Lodge closed in the first and opened in the fourth degree, and here a most strange incident occurred, which is by no means cleared up in the Minutes. "Bro. Lamb remained in the Lodge; he immediately afterwards declared his ignorance of the ceremony, it was in consequence found necessary to give him the fourth degree, and he accordingly was passed the chair in due and ancient form," after which Bro. Dalrymple was installed. The Minutes are meagre, but apparently it was the *opening ceremony* of the Board of Installed Masters that Bro. Lamb declared his ignorance of, which points to a more elaborate ceremony being in vogue in those days than is now practised. Whether Bro. Lamb's remaining was accidental or intentional

is not mentioned. The newly Installed Master received "the honors of Masonry from the brethren of the Lodge according to their respective degrees," and closed at 8-30 P.M.

Only four brethren and the Worshipful Master met on the 4th July, when the Lodge was opened and closed in the 1st degree, July 4. no work of any kind whatever being done, and the next Meeting held on the 8th August was not much better, the 4<sup>o</sup> was worked and a few propositions made. The returns show 26 Aug. 8. members on the register, of which are "four absent," and one is "dead," leaving the actual strength of the Lodge at 21.

Beyond propositions nothing is done on the 22nd August, Bro. Glas of Stirling Royal Arch Lodge, No. 71, is proposed as a joining member, and unanimously elected, at the following Aug. 22. Meeting on the 5th of September, at which also one Sept. 5. initiation took place, and the 4<sup>o</sup> was worked.

The Worshipful Master proposes "that as the public guard mounting is now fixed for Tuesdays, and it might be inconvenient for some of the members to sit up late the night before, they living at a considerable distance from the Lodge, the Regular Meetings do take place on Sept. 20. Tuesdays instead of Mondays as heretofore." Carried Oct. 4. unanimously. Only routine work was done at the next " 18. Meeting held on 20th September. Two ordinary Meet- Nov. 1. ings were held in each of the months of October and " 15. November, and an Emergent Meeting on the 30th of Dec. 6. November, to raise Bro. Rose, whose Regiment was on " 20. the eve of marching; Meetings, the records of which contain matter of no special interest were held on 6th and 20th December. Bro. Meikle is again elected Master, and Bro. Haldane, Treasurer.

As "all the Brethren" were invited to the Hyderabad Residency on the evening of St. John's Day, it was resolved that the usual Lodge dinner on that day should be held at 3 P.M., so that the Brethren could also go to the Residency.

Bro. Smith of Lodge No. 400, Honor and Unanimity, held in H. M.'s 13th Light Dragoons, was elected as a joining member. Resolved upon two other items of business that the Lodge meet for the future once a month on the 1st Tuesday of each month, and that the subscription be reduced temporarily to three rupees.

The Lodge met on St. John's Day in the morning at 7, half-an-hour later than the hour of meeting hitherto. A very busy Dec. 27. morning is spent disposing of routine work, amongst which is the proposed ballot and acceptance of a visitor, Bro. Bonnette

of Corinthian Lodge, No. 14. After an interval for refreshment, the Brethren re-assemble again at 2 P.M., when the installation of the Worshipful Master Meikle and appointment of officers for the ensuing six

|          |                                                                     |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1826.    | months takes place, the Lodge closed at half-past 3, when it        |
| Jan. 3.  | is presumed they all sat down to "the public dinner," and           |
| Feb. 8.  | subsequently adjourned to the entertainment at the                  |
| Mar. 7.  | Residency. The year 1826 cannot be said to have                     |
| April 4. | opened well for Lodge St. John's, except in so far that             |
| May 9.   | worthy Bro. Meikle, a most zealous brother, with the                |
| June 6.  | interests of St. John's thoroughly at heart was again in the chair. |

Although only one Meeting was held in each month, for the first five months even that was miserably attended and but very little work was done. This nominal Roll of the Lodge shows about 20 members at this time, but rarely more than half that number attended Lodge.

Bro. Mason of Union Lodge, No. 456, Cape of Good Hope, joined the Lodge. On the 20th of June the majority of the members attended Lodge and very sensibly re-elected Bro. Meikle for the ensuing six months, and Bro. Haldane, Treasurer. One brother "passed the chair" and 6 propositions for "steps" and initiations were made, the Lodge closing at 9 P.M.

Following the procedure of the previous year the Lodge opened on St. John's Day at 7 A.M., 16 members being present. A lot of routine work is cleared off. "Bro. Baxter begs leave to state to the brethren the illegality of electing Ensign Rowlandson as a candidate for the mysteries of Masonry, he being under the prescribed age of 21;" the election is conveniently cancelled, the second and fourth degrees are worked, an interval allowed for refreshment, Lodge resuming labour at 2 P.M. The Officers for the ensuing six months are appointed and invested with their jewels of office. Worshipful Master Meikle then proceeded to deal with the subject of "arrears," and it was unanimously resolved "that the Secretary do write in the name of the Lodge to those brethren who have left the station with fees unpaid, calling upon them to pay the same without delay, otherwise the brethren who proposed them will be required to pay the amount," and it was further resolved "that in future before a brother can attain a step in the Lodge he do pay any dues which he may have at that time unpaid," both very excellent resolutions.

The Lodge closed at 5-30 P.M.; nothing of importance occurred at the Meeting in July. The Worshipful Master notifies his intention, "now the cold season has set in, of calling two Meetings monthly as heretofore."

The second and third degrees were worked on the 18th July and fourth degree on the 1st of August, at which Meeting it was unanimously resolved "that the front room of our Lodge be offered to the community at large for the purpose of the Clergyman performing Divine Service in it during the time the church is undergoing repairs." It was also resolved "that a circular be sent to those brethren who are absent without excuses expressing the regret and displeasure of the Lodge at their repeated non-attendance."

Nothing of note occurred at the Meetings on the 15th of August, 5th and 26th of September, visitors were present from the Lodge of Industry and Perseverance, Calcutta," "Corinthian Lodge, No. 14," and "Lodge No. 7, on the Coast of Coromandel," Sergeants Longden and Driscoll of the 4th Regiment are initiated free of expense "for the purpose of their becoming Tylers to the Lodge," it is noteworthy that with the exception of the Tylers presumably the Outer and Inner Guard, since the formation of the Lodge in 1822 its members consisted of *Commissioned* Officers only—a purely Military Officers' Lodge.

The Quarterly Returns show that the numerical strength of the Lodge had increased to about 30.

The third degree was worked on the 12th December. And on the 19th December Bro. Whistler is elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing six months, Bro. Campbell being elected Treasurer. On St. John's Day according to custom the Lodge opened in the early morning, got rid of all routine business and installed the Worshipful Master in the evening.

Four Meetings were held in January, when degrees were given and lots of propositions made, the new Worshipful Master appeared very anxious to give degrees to all entitled to them without delay, and this is accounted for in the Proceedings "as many of the brethren leave the station shortly." A visitor from "Lodge Social and Military Virtue" was present on the 16th.

The activity of the Lodge in January appears to have had rather a depressing after-effect on the brethren as at the Meetings held on the 20th February and 6th March only half-a-dozen Brethren put in an appearance. And at the latter Meeting both the Secretary and Treasurer tender their resignations.

On the 20th only five brethren are present, the first degree is however worked. Bro. Treasurer on being asked his reason for resigning states "that the Lodge is badly attended and the brethren generally retiring after labour instead of remaining to

refreshment in the social manner that is always expected amongst Masons." Eventually it is resolved to have only one Meeting in the month, and that a circular be issued to all members requesting a regular attendance. Bro. Treasurer's ruffled feathers were smoothed and he agreed "to reserve his last night's proposition (resignation) for a future period." Closed in harmony at 8-30 P.M. A copy of the circular referred

to it's transcribed in the Minute Book, "the Worshipful  
**Mar. 25.**

Master and Officers of the Lodge perceiving with much regret the same indolent feeling still exists among the members towards fulfilling the duties of the profession." Calls upon them to attend regularly and "should the Worshipful Master after this perceive no change for the better it will become a painful part of his duty to hand up the names of those members who so repeatedly absent themselves to the Provincial Grand Master."

No work was done in April and May, low water mark being touched at May Day Meeting, when only four brethren attended.

**April 3.** On the 5th of June, however, the prospect must have  
**May 1.** brightened considerably, or else why is it resolved "to  
**June 5.** have Meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of each month."

A Lodge of Emergency is held on the 12th June, at which 14 brethren

**June 12.** are present, and the second and third degrees are worked,  
**" 19.** and on the 19th June the second degree is again worked.

There is no record of any Meeting on St. John's Day in harvest in 1827, but on the 2nd July at "high twelve" the Lodge meets "to ballot for a Worshipful Master to preside and fill the chair for the ensuing six months," Bro. Whistler is unanimously re-elected Master and Bro. Campbell, Treasurer. "The jewels are collected" and Officers appointed. The accounts for the past six months are audited.

"Entered apprentices are desired to withdraw. The Lodge is transferred to the 2nd or Fellow Crafts Degree."

Fellow Crafts are desired to withdraw.

The Lodge is transferred to the 3rd or Master's Degree of Masonry, brethren under the rank of Past Masters are requested to withdraw.

The Lodge is transferred to the 4th or Past Master's Degree, when brethren Pailby, Byam and Onslow are admitted and passed the chair of King Solomon in ancient form with due honors. The Lodge is then regularly lowered to the 1st degree and routine proposals are made. It will be noticed that at this Meeting the old form of indiscriminately

opening and closing on any degree in which work has to be done, and of making proposals at any degree, has been discontinued and a more correct and regular method adopted, the word "transferred" used in raising or lowering the Lodge is quaint. "Steps" or advancement in degree still had to be regularly proposed, seconded and balloted for in all degrees.

The Lodge unanimously resolves that "the monthly subscription or dues to the Lodge Funds be raised to four rupees, out of which 10 rupees per month be given to the Tyler. Bro. Ashurst, of Union Lodge, No. 20, becomes a member. "The Lodge is called from labour to refreshment at half-past-two." The brethren re-assemble at 7 P.M. Some routine proposals are made and the Lodge closes at 8 o'clock. The next Meeting of "St. John's Lodge, No. 13, East of Secunderabad," was held on the 17th July, when 18 brethren were present; opened in the 1st degree, and as there were to be two "raisings" that night, the Lodge was "transferred" first to the second and then to "the Master's Degree;" the candidates are then admitted and "on being found completely proficient in the first and second degrees" are raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason. The Lodge is regularly reduced to 1st degree, routine work is got through and the Lodge closes at 9 o'clock.

On the 7th of August a proposal is made "that the third Tuesday in each month be considered a Lodge of instruction and that the business of initiating candidates, etc., etc., etc., be done on the first Tuesday." On the 21st August the following entry appears for the first time in the Minutes of the Proceedings. "The Proceedings of the last Meeting are read," and this entry regularly appears in subsequent Proceedings.

There being no work on the 6th November, Worshipful Master Whistler "gives a lecture," and again on the 20th November there being no work "the Worshipful Master gives a lecture."

The morning Meeting on St. John's Day appears this year to be discontinued, as the brethren meet at 7 P.M., and Worshipful Master Whistler, his two lectures notwithstanding, reverts to the old method of working, and the Lodge is "opened in the first degree of Masonry, closed in the first and opened in the third."

Nine members are present, and without apparently any election the officers "were *installed* into office for the ensuing 12 months, and Bro. Meikle passed into the chair in due and ancient form, after which he received the honors of Masonry from the brethren of the Lodge

according to their respective degrees." "The Lodge is closed in the 3rd and opened in the 1st degree." Possibly the old Past Master Meikle is responsible for this reversion to the old order of affairs.

Again it is resolved that a Meeting once a month is sufficient.

Routine work only occupies the Lodge on the 15th of January. No Meetings are held in February, March and April, but on the 7th of May we have the first instance of "black-balling" recorded in the Lodge or candidate "is black-balled (3)" appearing in the Minutes. "Bros. Walker, Smythe and Young, of Lodge, No 1" are unanimously elected members and "Brother Worshipful Master proposes Mr. W. M. Palmer, as also Sultan Hossain Khan and Mahomed Noaz Khan as candidates for the mysteries of Masonry." William Palmer is the first civilian proposed in the Lodge; he was duly elected on the 28th May, and initiated on the 3rd June; probably the two Mahomedan candidates were withdrawn or negatived, as their names do not appear in the Proceedings again. It will be remembered that in 1823, when Bro. Meikle was Senior Warden, certain correspondence took place regarding the qualifications of a Mahomedan candidate, a Persian Prince, "who by the malevolence of his enemies became a eunuch."

Worshipful Master Meikle, notwithstanding it having been resolved only to have one Meeting in each month, summoned the brethren again on the 28th of May, when a lot of work is got through including a "passing to the 2nd degree." It is resolved that certain members "be admonished from the chair for having absented themselves from the Lodge without any excuse." Some half-a-dozen candidates are proposed, and the following Resolution passed, "that every member should be recommended to attend the supper, and that a good one be always provided." The following addition to the by-laws was suggested: "That as a day is appointed for the Regular Meeting of the Lodge, no engagement of a private or convivial nature should be considered as sufficient to put off the regular day of Meeting."

A good Meeting is held on the 3rd June, an initiation takes place, after which the newly-made brother "is introduced and returns thanks." Eight propositions are disposed of, and the Lodge closes at half-past 9 P.M.

The 17th of June Meeting is devoted to the consideration of the by-laws which are read in open Lodge. Unfortunately no record of them is extant.\* A letter to the Provincial Grand Secretary "is read and entered in the Proceedings" as follows:—

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\* Wor. Bro. Stevens' notes end here.

TO WOR. BRO. HANSON,

*Provincial Grand Secretary.*

WORSHIPFUL SIR & BROTHER,

Will you have the goodness to state to the M. W. the Dy. Provincial Grand Master that as Lieut. Grant of the Cavalry, who is not yet 20 years of age, has been well recommended to us by an old Mason as worthy to be initiated into the mysteries of our Royal Art, I have taken the liberty to trouble the Worshipful Master on the occasion, and trust that he will have the goodness to grant a dispensation to the Worshipful Master of St. John's, No. 13, to that effect.

With fraternal affection,

I am,

Wor. Sir & Brother,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE MEIKLE,

*W.M., No. 13.*

The following letter from the Worshipful Master to the Provincial Grand Secretary is also read and entered on the Proceedings as follows:—

SECUNDERABAD LODGE OF ST. JOHN, NO. 13,

*22nd May, 1828.*

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE,

*Madras.*

WORSHIPFUL SIR & BROTHER,

Some discussions and doubts having arisen in the minds of some of the brethren in the Lodge of St. John with regard to the propriety and utility of initiating Mussalmans of respectable character into the mysteries of Masonry and also as to the form and O. B., some considering that in the customary way it would not be binding upon men of a different faith, I have the honor to request that you will lay the subject before the M. W. the Grand Master, and to request that he will be pleased to furnish me with full and explicit instructions how to act.

I beg leave to bring to the notice of the M. W. the Grand Master that upwards of a year ago I was present at the initiation of Mussulmen at Bombay, and the only difference observed in the ceremony there was the O. B. upon the Evangelists and Koran at the same time.

With fraternal affection,

I am, your sincere Brother,

GEORGE MEIKLE, *W.M.*

“The following letter from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master on the Coast of Coromandel to Bro. Meikle, Worshipful

June 7.

Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 13, is read and entered

on the Proceedings as follows:—”

MADRAS,  
20th January, 1826.

TO WOR. BRO. MEIKLE,

WOR. MASTER OF ST. JOHN, NO. 13,

*Secunderabad.*

WORSHIPFUL SIR & BROTHER,

Having submitted your communication of the 12th instant to the Acting Provincial Grand Master of the Coast of Coromandel, who, together with myself, have given the subject mature consideration, I am permitted to add his sanction to the following remarks on the subject under reference.

Although the Provincial Grand Lodge is the proper place to discuss matters of Masonic controversy, yet under provision of the 40th Article of the By-Laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge, we are of opinion that misunderstandings in general in Lodges can and ought to be removed, by a reference to the Provincial Grand Master who can have no interest in giving his opinion, save for the good of the Craft, except indeed in such cases when the misconduct of Masons ought to be made known to the Fraternity at large. With this view and the hope that it will be more congenial to the feelings of the officers and members of Lodge St. John, I proceed to give our sentiments on the subject of your letter.

Article 25 of the By-Laws of the Provincial Grand Lodge on the Coast of Coromandel for the Government of the Lodges working under its constitution empowers every Lodge to frame by-laws for its own Government, provided they are not contrary to or inconsistent with the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge and subject to the approval of the Provincial Grand Master.

Your by-laws have obtained the sanction of the Provincial Grand Master, every article being considered consistent with the General Regulations of the Grand Lodge.

With reference to the article of your by-laws on the subject of balloting for a candidate or the admission of members being Masons, *every* member of the Lodge has the undoubted right to ballot, and although the appearance of a B. B. denotes an objection to the admission of a candidate and of a member, yet when timely notice of the ballot has been sent in circulation, it is natural to infer that the members came prepared either to admit or exclude the object of the ballot.

The appearance of one or even two B. B. in an extensive society denotes the disapprobation of only a trifling minority. In such cases it is but reasonable to expect that the members objecting to the admission of a candidate or member should be prepared to give candid and substantial reasons for the exclusion of the object of the ballot, conscious that such explanations in open Lodge are kept in solemn secrecy, and whatever decision the Lodge may come to extend not beyond the sanctuary of the Temple.

If it be supposed that no reasons for the exclusion of a candidate or member by ballot can be exacted under Masonic principles, the laws and regulations of

a fraternity which prides itself on its justice and equity, freed from enmity and malice, might indeed be considered more arbitrary than the most despotic of Governments.

Masonry exacts brotherly love. To live in charity one with another. To reprove or endeavour to reform, but not to condemn the errors and failings of a brother, and to uphold his character, unless his conduct be such as to render him obnoxious to society in general.

Under these impressions of the qualifications of a good man and a Mason, both the Provincial Grand Master and myself can see no reason why the Worshipful Master, with the concurrence of his officers, should not call for the reasons for the exclusion of the member ballotted for, keeping in mind that such reasons and motives if erroneously formed may be rectified by free discussion extend not beyond the portals of the Lodge.

"We conceive the ballot was originally instituted to prevent much unnecessary discussion in open Lodge, especially as Masons under the degree of Master are not deemed competent nor permitted to enter into Masonic discussions, except those that relate to the funds of the Lodge, hence it is the more necessary for Junior members who have the privilege of balloting to communicate to their Seniors any just objections they may have to the admission of the objects of the ballot in order that the whole Lodge may be convinced of the impropriety of admitting unworthy subjects into their Society with the firm conviction that such sentiments expressed for the good of the Craft remain inviolable in the breasts of his brother Masons.

"With reference to the age at which candidates are admitted I have to assure you that the instructions from England are positive that none shall be admitted under the mature age of 21 years, except the sons of Masons who have the privilege of claiming the indulgence at 18 years of age. Under peculiar circumstances the Provincial Grand Master has the power of granting a dispensation, a power which he is not very anxious to exercise.

"In the hope that what I have expressed with the full sanction of the Provincial Grand Master will remove all unpleasant feelings which might have existed on a recent occasion in your Lodge and will impress on the minds of all your members the extreme illiberality of extending censure and punishment without the means of defence by withholding information which may prove of the most essential service to the whole of the Craft and with sincere wishes for your prosperity and improvement in the Royal Art.

"Believe me to remain with fraternal affection, Your sincere and devoted brother,

"EDWARD GORDON,"  
"Deputy Pro. Grand Master."

Bro. Stokes was then elected Worshipful Master but at next Meeting on 24th June (St. John's Day) he begs to decline the honour on the plea of not being sufficiently acquainted with the duties. Bro. Stokes was then a Mason of 6 years' standing having been raised on the 22nd

December, 1822, and was acting as S. W. so that it seems strange that he should have felt himself to be not sufficiently acquainted with the duties. His plea was accepted and Bro. Whistler was at once elected and installed—

It is noteworthy that Bro. Stokes appears to have been only a J. D. and had not qualified as a Warden for the full period of 12 months. Day of Meeting is altered to 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month.

On 29th September Bro. Smythe (Acting J. W.) proposes, “that those brethren who so far forget their duty as Masons by continually absenting themselves be written to, requesting them to withdraw from the Lodge otherwise the by-laws will be enforced. There is however, nothing to show what the by-law on this point was.

On 10th November it was decided that Bro. French who was “mentioned in the Summons to be raised and who did not attend or send any excuse that (*sic*) an admonitory letter be written to him.”

At the same Meeting a dispensation from Provincial Grand Master was read allowing Lieut. James Grant to be initiated although under 21 years of age. Bro. Stokes asked to be allowed to resign because the stress of his official duties (Doctor) prevented his regular attendance but at the request of the Worshipful Master asking him to remain and that his regular attendance would be dispensed with he agreed to do so.

The following letter from Bro. Hanson, Provincial Grand Master, of Madras, was read:—

It was addressed to Wor. Bro. Smythe the then I. P. M.  
WOR. SIR & BRO.,

In reply to your communication of 8th October I am directed to inform you that being a member of the P. G. Lodge on the Coast of Coromandel entitles you to be a visiting member of any Lodge working under it and also to the Masonic appellation of Worshipful In like manner it gives you the privilege from absenting yourself from your own Lodge although within your Cable of Tow (*sic*.)

At the same Meeting the names of Bro. Palmer and Mottet were ordered to be struck off for non-attendance and at the following Meeting (21st February) a letter of resignation from Bro. Palmer was read. This appears to have been the William Palmer, the head of the great Banking firm in Hyderabad.

Bro. Stokes asks to be allowed to resign and permission was given on 14th August, dispensation was applied for to initiate Lieut. Fraser and Ensign Peacock, both under age and was received in the September following.

July 18, 1829.

At the Meeting an appeal was read from Bro. the Revd. Mr. Scudder on behalf of the Jaffna Institute and at the following  
 Nov. 7. Meeting on 20th November a donation of Rs. 100 was sanctioned. At this Meeting the absence of both Secretary and Treasurer is noted in the Minutes.

Another Master was proclaimed (Bro. Meikle), the Regular Master Smythe who had been installed on 13th February apparently having to leave the Station. *A practice to be commended.* At present a Lodge is often orphaned for many months. In the very next Meeting however on 24th April Bro. Smythe's removal having been cancelled, he was replaced in the Chair.

At this Meeting the presentation of badge of Royal Arch Masons to Bro. Whistler was voted.

Owing to insufficient members the Tyler had to be called in to assist in passing the brethren. On 12th June Bro.  
 May 29. Nalothki having been absent for the 3rd time without excuse the jewel of the S. D. conferred upon him was resumed at this Meeting; there were so few brethren present that the election of a Worshipful Master could not be proceeded with and was adjourned to 24th June. On 28th August a Resolution was carried, that no brother should be advanced to a higher degree until the dues owing are paid.

Bro. Meikle was requested to accept a farewell party before leaving, which honour he was obliged to decline as he was  
 Oct. 23. going Home on sick leave; on 18th December, however, Bro. Meikle was still present, and on this occasion a gold medal was voted to him for service as W. & P. M. This was accepted. On 27th December, Bro. E. L. Smythe was elected Worshipful Master for the 3rd time.

Bro. Smythe being ordered away, Bro. Lamb, the Secretary, was  
 1831. elected Worshipful Master and fresh officers appointed.  
 Jan. 8. Bro. Smythe accepts a farewell party which is fixed for the 24th. There is no record of how this party went off. Presumably it was held out of Lodge. A reference was made to the Grand Lodge as to the admissibility of a gentleman as a Mason who was maimed in one of his legs—not congenital but due to an accident.\*

The Worshipful Master notified that he had sent £10 to Rundall and Bridges for the jewel to be presented to Bro.  
 Feb. 26. Meikle. Reply was read from P. G. L. that there was no  
 „ 31. objection to the admission of the gentleman maimed in one of his legs, owing to an accident or otherwise. The only conditions

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\* See note on p. 11.

necessary being those in the declaration that he is free-born, of mature age and is uninfluenced, etc.

Mr. H. Deighton,\* a gentleman, whose name was afterwards very prominent in the Civil history of Hyderabad, having been  
**March 26.** elected at a previous Meeting was not able to attend for initiation owing to indisposition.

An interval of two months since last Meeting, Bro. Young elected as  
**May 21.** Worshipful Master and was duly installed on 24th June. On this latter date Mr. Deighton was initiated. The Lodge continued to meet regularly until the end of the year. At each Meeting fresh candidates were proposed and everything appears to have gone on smoothly. On 15th October it was resolved that a vote of thanks be sent by letter to Bro. Cooke, Purser of H. M. "Zebra" and to Bro. Smythe, though for what reason does not appear. On 24th December Bro. Young was re-elected Worshipful Master for the next six months. It is noteworthy that during the whole of Bro. Young's first tenure of office the Minutes are never signed by the Worshipful Master but only by the Secretary Bro. Cotton.

**Dec. 27, '31.** St. John's Day Lodge met at 6-30 A.M. and after opening adjourned to 6 P.M. for installation.

Nothing of moment occurred during the 2nd tenure of the Chair by  
**1832.** Bro. Young and on 9th June P. M. Trollope was elected Worshipful Master and Bro. Deighton, Treasurer. A sum of Rs. 500 was voted to different charities, *viz.*:

|                              |     |         |         |
|------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| Masonic Charity              | ... | M.      | Rs. 200 |
| Charity School, Secunderabad | ... | H.S.    | 200     |
| Do.                          | do. | Bolarum | 100     |

Total ...Rs. 500

St. John's Day and Installation; a sum of Rs. 30 was voted to the widow of a late Bro. Barnard, a Pay Sergeant in the  
**June 24.** 46th Regiment. On 21st July the Worshipful Master Trollope having announced his early departure from the station, a new Worshipful Master was elected for the remainder of the year. P. M. Young was elected, installed and proclaimed with honors. Fresh officers were appointed. On 25th August the donation to the widow Barnard was increased to Rs. 100 as she was shown to be in very poor circumstances. At this Meeting it was proposed that at each Lodge Meeting a financial statement should be put on the Worshipful Master's Pedestal showing

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\* See note at the end of history of St. John's Lodge.

position of Lodge and state of arrears. This was again put before the next Meeting on 6th October and being carried, was made a by-law. At this latter Meeting, it was reported that widow Barnard having consoled herself for the loss of her first husband was about to take another, and it was resolved that the Rs. 100 voted to her should revert to the Lodge. We find at this Meeting the first notice of a native brother being admitted as a visitor Meer Binde Ali Khan. At this Meeting Bro. Smythe re-visited the Lodge as a G. L. Officer, was asked to take the Chair and delivered a "luminous and lengthened address" on various points of Masonry.

**Dec. 8, 1832.** Bro. Oliphant was elected Worshipful Master.

Notice was given that Bro. Smythe would hold a R. A. Chapter\* and would elevate all the P.M's. who might wish it to the R. A. degree. A vote of thanks was passed to an absent Bro. Alexander for the present of a pair of pillars (Boaz and Jachin) and as it was announced that the Worshipful Master-Elect Oliphant would be absent on duty on the installation day he was installed in anticipation and as the Tyler Bro. Applebee was about to leave the station, it was resolved that a certificate of good conduct be given to him for the way he had performed his duties for four years and he was also addressed in open Lodge by the Worshipful Master.

The son of Meer Binde Ali Khan was proposed for initiation and the matter was put off till the next Meeting when it was  
**Dec. 27.** decided that owing to his ignorance of English it would be inadvisable to admit him, but that the matter would be reconsidered on his return from Lucknow.

Resolved to send a letter to Provincial Grand Lodge asking whether  
**April 13, 1833.** any steps had been taken to register No. 13 (St. John) in the list of Grand Lodge of England and if not, that it should be done at once.

**June 8, '33.** Bro. Oliphant re-elected Worshipful Master.

We come across a trace of an incident which at the time must have caused considerable excitement in the station, but  
**Sept. 14.** regarding the details of which we are ignorant. Bro. Smythe's name has during the last few years been very prominent in the Lodge proceedings, as Worshipful Master, P. M., and again after his return in 1832 when he started the R. A. degree. We find the following Resolution regarding him :—

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\* See introduction to history of R. A. Chapter, after working the degree for some years without a Warrant it had evidently fallen into abeyance until revived by Bro. Smythe.

Proposed by Bro. Young, "that the Worshipful Master, Wardens and brethren of Lodge St. John, No. 13, have heard with feelings of the greatest joy that their much-esteemed Bro. and late Worshipful Master Smythe has been fully and honourably acquitted of the charges which his enemies have preferred against him. That with reference to his great and unprecedented sufferings, his undaunted and noble bearing under them and his happy and honourable deliverance the Lodge cannot withhold the expression of its deepest sympathy, its most unqualified admiration and its heart-felt gratitude. That the Worshipful Master be requested to convey these sentiments to our worthy and Wor. Bro. Smythe with the warmest wishes of the brethren for his health and prosperity."

The trial through which Bro. Smythe had passed must have been more than an ordinary one and we can only regret that at present we can throw no further light on the incident.

At this Meeting Bro. Whistler, who was proceeding to Madras—  
 Oct. 12. was appointed a Delegate to Provincial Grand Lodge with full powers to act "on the part of the Lodge in certain matters deeply affecting its interests."

Bro. Hughes, a visiting member from Lodge Perfect Unanimity of Madras, was put into the Chair and performed the ceremony of initiation to Bro. MacLeod.  
 Nov. 2, '33.

Dec. 7, '27. Bro. Oliphant was re-elected and installed Worshipful Master.

The Worshipful Master gives notice of his approaching absence to Madras and appoints the S. W. Bro. Cameron to act during his absence.  
 Jan. 11, '34.

Bro. Oliphant returned from Madras and informed the Lodge what he had done on their behalf, but no details are entered on the Minutes.  
 March 8.

"After supper the refreshment room being duly tyled the Worshipful Master proposed Capt. Borrodaile of the 4th L.C. as a candidate for initiation."  
 April 1.

A subscription for the widow of the late Bro. Hewitt of H. H. the Nizam's service was circulated and Rs. 655 were subscribed, of which Rs. 50 came from Lodge and remainder from individual funds.\*  
 Sept. 13, '34.

Dec. 27, '34. Bro. Williams was installed as Worshipful Master.

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\* A very handsome subscription. There was more fruit on the pagoda tree than there is now !

Worshipful Master announces his intention to hold a Lodge of  
 Feb. 14, '35. Instruction every Saturday evening at 6-30, except on  
 regular Lodge nights.

An officer states himself to be a Mason; having requested  
 May 9, '35. admittance as a V. B. was duly examined by Bro.  
 Young and others, but being unable to prove to the  
 satisfaction of the Lodge that he had been duly initiated was not  
 admitted.

Installation day. Before the ceremony the Worshipful Master in-  
 June 24, 1835. formed the Lodge that in order to be registered in G. L.  
 of England 2/6 for each joining member and 17/ for each  
 made Mason must be paid in arrears since 1826, involving a bill of £60  
 19s. 6d. and that the Chapter had generously offered to pay the amount.

A Lodge having been started on the Nilgiri Hills and the Provincial  
 Aug. 15, '35. Grand Lodge having granted to it the No. 4 belonging  
 to an extinct Lodge, a Resolution was passed protesting  
 against a higher number being granted to a new Lodge entirely unconnected  
 with the extinct one. Also a general dispensation was asked for  
 processions, divine service, funerals, etc.

A circular from the Provincial Grand Lodge was read expelling "A  
 Sept. 19, '35. brother named Henry Dominic Phillips, a member of the  
 Nilgiri Lodge and depriving him of all Masonic privileges." This must have been the Henry Dominic Phillips, of the  
 Madras C. S. who in 1864 was Senior Member of Council at Madras.

An answer from Provincial Grand Lodge was read  
 Oct. 17, '35. regarding the number given to the Nilgiri Lodge, but  
 we are not told what the answer was.

It was resolved on a petition from Kamptee to recommend that  
 a Charter be given by Provincial Grand Lodge to the proposed Lodge to  
 be opened there to be called St. Andrews.

It was resolved to send a circular to the brethren who had  
 been initiated and joined since 1826 and who were  
 Nov. 21. now absent asking them to pay their share of the  
 registration fees.

Bro. Oliphant was re-elected Worshipful Master.

St. John's day falling on a Sunday the Lodge opened in the morning,  
 Dec. 27, '35. adjourned at 11 A.M., and re-opened in the evening  
 when the ceremony was performed.

A "Medal" was voted to Bro. Oliphant for his services in the Chair.

**June 24, '36.** The practice of electing a Master every six months appears to have discontinued. Bro. Oliphant held office throughout 1834 and 1835.

Bro. Key elected Worshipful Master. Lodge visited by his name-  
**Nov. 19, '36.** sake Bro. Key from Madras.

Installation day. Lodge met at sunrise, after opening adjourned till 10, re-assembled and adjourned at 12-30 and  
**Dec. 27.** opened again at 6 P.M. when Installation ceremony was performed.

A sum of £21 was forwarded to the Grand Stewards Lodge for  
**April 20, '37.** presentation to the Royal Grand Master.

A very peculiar Resolution was passed at this Meeting to petition the Grand Lodge in England that the Lodge should be  
**May 20.** allowed to correspond with it direct. The letter is given in full, together with the Resolution authorizing it.

The following are extracts from the letter to the Grand Lodge of  
**June 24.** England:

"I beg to annex a Resolution unanimously adopted this day by the members of St. John's Lodge, No. 628, and request you will convey to our Royal Grand Master and the Grand Lodge of England our respectful and earnest petition to be permitted to place ourselves under their immediate protection."

Copies of certain correspondence were enclosed (which however are not reproduced in the Minute Book) and the letter goes on to say "willing to believe that the delays and irregularities from which we have suffered arose from circumstances over which the Provincial Grand Lodge had no control, we refrain from making any remark further than that this Lodge which has been working uniformly since August 1822, and which has now registered in its books 223 members who have either joined or been initiated in it, has only lately been placed on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of England." The letter then speaks of the £60 sent through the Provincial Grand Lodge for arrears of dues, and of other sums for which they hold receipts. "In conclusion, I trust that if any informality should exist in the form or tenor of this letter, it will be kindly overlooked, seeing that we have no form to guide us in preparing it."

P.S.—"Communications for us may be addressed to the care of Messrs. Binny & Co., Madras, or Messrs. Skinner & Co., Bombay."

Extract from Proceedings of St. John's Lodge on 24th June, 1837.

"Adverting to the many delays and irregularities that have attended our connection with the Provincial Grand Lodge at Madras which have already been sources of much inconvenience to the Lodge, and which by the recent death of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master are now more likely to increase than diminish, taking also into consideration the circumstance of our now being on the registry of the Grand Lodge of England and the great convenience and regularity that direct communication with it would ensure to us, it is proposed

that a letter be written to the Grand Secretary to the Grand Lodge of England, petitioning that this Lodge be permitted to correspond with the Grand Lodge direct."

Strange to say I can find no record of any reply being received to this rebellious letter, a copy of which was forwarded to the Provincial Grand Lodge for information.

The Worshipful Master proposes by a circular that a special donation of £15 be sent direct to the Grand Lodge in England for distribution to charities.

Portions of pp. 318, 319, 320 and 321 missing.

Bro. Key elected as Worshipful Master. Bro. Macdonald from Bengal elected Honorary Member, and Resolution passed that use of Lodge for scientific or charitable purposes can only be granted by Worshipful Master and Wardens on special occasions and not for dinner parties.

Met at sunrise. Work in morning till 11 and then adjourned to 6 P.M. for installation. A communication from Provincial Grand Lodge was read offering to change the number of the Lodge to No. 4 which was accepted.

Agreeably to proposal made by Worshipful Master at previous Meeting, a copy of revised by-laws was submitted for approval and agreed to. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Lodge was called for, so as to have a last Meeting with brethren whose regiments were leaving (? called to the front for the Afghan War?). No such Meeting appears to have been held. On 25th June a Resolution was passed asking the Chapter for help towards repairs.

Rs. 38 sent as contribution to widow of a 'zealous brother' at the Nagpur Lodge. Also resolved that stables be built.

Proposed that a dispensation be asked for Bro. Key to remain in the Chair for another year.

Several pages missing at end of the book. Book II begins with Worshipful Bro. Key appears to be still in the Chair so apparently the dispensation for his re-election was given.

A medal was voted to Bro. Key for his services in the Chair for the past two (three?) years.

Bro. McGowan was installed as Worshipful Master.

(N.B.—Minutes very badly written and carelessly kept.)

Bro. Young again brings to notice "the grievances which this Lodge has long suffered, from various papers and answers to communications having been withheld for a very

protracted period. He begs that Bro. McDonald be requested to act as Delegate to the Grand Lodge of England for the purpose of obtaining redress but more especially to solicit answers to letters long since sent but still unreplied to. Carried; as also that Bro. McDonald be considered an Honorary Member of the Lodge during his absence and be given full powers as Delegate.

Bro. McDonald proposes at this Meeting that before permitting any brother to join the Lodge he should make affirmation of his fidelity and that he has not incurred the displeasure of any Lodge.

(N.B.— This proposal seems to be unnecessary since a clearance certificate should suffice and without it no one could be accepted.)

No Meeting between 29th September and 28th December. The Minutes of the last Meeting contains no record of election or installation of Worshipful Master although this is St. John's day.

There is a blank page for the record of this Meeting  
 Jan'y. 13, '41. and simply an entry of two lines recording Bro. McGowan as Worshipful Master.

It is proposed that Bro. Key be elected as Worshipful Master for the  
 April 19, '41. ensuing year. This is quite irregular as the election ought to have been held in the previous November and installation in December, but evidently matters have not been going on as they should.

May 15, '41. Bro. Key is installed as Worshipful Master.

Proposed by the Worshipful Master that owing to the uncertainty  
 June 24. of the weather "for the next two or three months the Regular Meetings be discontinued and that taking advantage of any fair weather the Worshipful Master may call a Lodge at three days' notice."—Carried *nem. con.*

(N.B.—A most irregular proposal.)

As a matter of fact, no Lodge was called till September 8th, or an interval of nearly three months when the Worshipful Master was absent and all business was postponed.

A communication from the Grand Lodge of England is read,  
 Dec. 13, '41. purport of which is not given, but the Worshipful Master makes the proposal that as he will shortly be quitting the station as also all the brethren present, the Lodge should be suspended until a sufficient number of members can be got to carry on the business. This proposal was carried unanimously.

(AFGHAN WAR ??)

The Treasurer gave in his accounts showing a balance of Rs. 557-9-4.

A Committee of three brethren were appointed to be in charge of the Lodge.

The next entry is on 6th July, 1843, when we find the following entry :

"In accordance with a requisition from several Masons that the Lodge St. John which has been dormant since November 1841 shall be again opened, the following Masons after due proof constituted themselves a Lodge which opened in the 1st degree

as W. M. McGowan,  
S. M. McMunro,  
J. W. Mounsey,  
J. D. Glasbroke,  
J. D. (Taylor),

Bro. Bruce and Colquhoun (Tylers).

Resolved, that a Meeting of all Masons in the Station be called for 15th July to settle further Proceedings.

Seven Masons being present Bro. Mounsey was asked to take the Chair till the election in November. One candidate  
July 15, '43. is announced and it is resolved to put the by-law regarding joining fees into abeyance, and all Masons eligible for election to be exempt from its operations, provided they signify their wish to join before the election day in November.

Ten members and five visitors were present. Five candidates  
Aug. 19, '43. were proposed for initiation and the five visitors as joining members so that the Lodge stands again with 17 members.

Oct. 10. The Lodge is prospering, and the by-law limiting initiations to two at a time is put in abeyance owing to press of business.

Oct. 21. Bro. Glasbroke passed the Chair (4th degree), three new candidates proposed and three joining members.

Nov. 2. The Lodge is now in such a flourishing condition that it was resolved that a Ball and Supper be given on St. John's day.

Bro. Mounsey was elected and installed, several new candidates and joining members having been announced, the by-law  
Dec. 27, '43. regarding joining fees is again put into force.

No less than five of the officers of the Lodge being  
March 5, '44. ordered to another station, substitutes were appointed.

From June 22nd until 7th November there is no record of the Lodge having met, and it seems probable that there is an omission since the candidate initiated in June was made a M. M. on 7th November without any record of his having taken the 2nd degree. At this Meeting Worshipful Master Mounsey resigns the Chair—reason not given and nominates Bro. Hext as his successor *pro tem*. This appears strange because under ordinary circumstances the usual election should have taken place at the next Meeting.

Dec. 27. Bro. Hext was installed apparently without having been regularly elected. The Minutes are being very carelessly kept.

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An interval of three years now occurs the reason of which is not entered in the Minute Book,\* but on February 1848 the Lodge met “according to Summons” and a letter was read from Provincial Grand Lodge granting permission to re-open the Lodge. A Bro. Noble was then installed. All the names of those present except two are new and five new candidates were proposed, altogether 11 brethren present and three sent excuses. During the next few months the Lodge appears to be very flourishing and at each Meeting fresh candidates are proposed. The ink is so faded that the Minutes are scarcely legible.

June 24, 1848. “In consequence of the expenses of the Lodge exceeding the income” proposed by the Worshipful Master and carried that in future the brethren pay for the wines which they order.

July 1. There being so many candidates on the Rolls it was decided that no more be admitted until these had been passed and raised to the higher degrees. There are now generally two Meetings in the month and the attendance is very good, sometimes as many as 24 being present.

Nov. 25. It is expressly recorded that the Minutes were read over and signed by the Worshipful Master and Wardens, but strange to say only the signature of the Secretary appears. At this Meeting there should have been an election of the Worshipful Master, but there is no record of it having taken place. It was, however, decided that on St. John’s day in December a Ball and Supper should be given to the Station.

Dec. 27. Bro. Noble, the Worshipful Master for the past year, was re-elected apparently by acclamation—a very irregular proceeding. The Meeting was held in the morning and afterwards

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\* Probably owing to the war in Afghanistan.

proceeded to Church in procession. The Ball and Supper were apparently held elsewhere.

On the 3rd February the Worshipful Master "addressed the Lodge  
 1849. regarding an expression made by Bro. Canan regarding  
 him and wished to know if the brethren assembled if  
 he still possessed their full confidence and adherence, expressing himself  
 determined, if otherwise—to resign the Chair and report the case for the  
 decision of the R. W. the P. D. G. M. The response was in his favour  
 with the exception of two brethren." It was then unanimously carried  
 that the Lodge funds being in a flourishing condition the monthly Suppers  
 should be paid for from Lodge funds.

One of the members having objected to the initiation of Capt.  
 March 31. Cotton a Resolution was carried that he should give  
 his reasons in private to the Wardens. (The Worshipful  
 Master was not present at this Meeting.) Apparently he did not do so,  
 or if he did they were not satisfactory because at the next Meeting  
 Bro. Cotton was duly initiated. It appears that Bro. Cotton had  
 been duly balloted for and elected at the previous Meeting. The  
 name of the member who objected is not mentioned and it seems  
 rather a moot point whether *after* a ballot has been held a member  
 has a right to object. Looking at the list of the members present  
 at the second Meeting (31st March) two names are found which  
 do not appear amongst those when the ballot was held. (*Query.* In  
 such a case if a member has a valid objection would it legally  
 prevail against a regular ballot?) Evidently some cause of friction  
 had taken place. The Worshipful Master had apparently resigned for  
 Bro. Fraser was requested to take the Chair and appointed new officers,  
 and at the same time four letters were read from four members tending  
 their resignations of two Lodges. This coming after the "aspersion"  
 made on the Worshipful Master's character, from which at the last  
 Meeting two brethren had declined to clear him, looks as if there were  
 an absence of the fraternal harmony which is so necessary for the well-  
 being of a Lodge. During the last twelve months the progress of the  
 Lodge had been so rapid that perhaps, as so often happens in Masonry a  
 reaction had set in. (*Query.* Is it possible that an incident may have  
 occurred at the Ball and Supper which had been given two months  
 before?) A vote of thanks however was passed to the Worshipful Master  
 Noble for the efficient way he had performed the duties of the Chair.

"Resolved that the expenses of Beer, etc., be charged to individual  
 brethren instead of to Lodge funds, as the funds cannot  
 May 7, '49. afford this expense."

Rs. 100 sent as donation to the poor in Ireland. The name of a brother is erased for non-attendance, non-payment of dues and fees and neglect to answer letters, official and private.

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The Lodge continues to meet frequently, there are various changes and resignations, but fresh candidates continue to join and it is resolved to hold another Ball on St. John's day at Chirstmas.

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The election of a new Worshipful Master should have taken place at the Regular Meeting in November, but after two Emergent Meetings a third was summoned for December 10th, when it was proposed that the Worshipful Master continue in the Chair. He was accordingly balloted for and elected. The proceeding would seem to be irregular.

Dec. 27, 1849. The Worshipful Master Fraser having been re-elected, is installed. No record of the Ball and Supper.

During the next two months the Lodge met but no work was done. At the 3rd Meeting the Worshipful Master requests to be allowed to resign and proposes Bro. Osborne as his successor. These resignations of the Worshipful Master so soon after the commencement of their years of office and so soon after the Ball and Supper seem peculiar.

March 30, 1850. Wor. Bro. Fraser installs Bro. Osborne and resigns the Chair. Fresh officers are appointed.

The brother appointed at the previous Meeting to be P. M. not having been in the Chair (only *passed* the Chair) for a year the appointment was cancelled. Another actual P. M. (Firminger) was appointed.

From this date up to June the Lodge seems to be falling off, so much so that in the Meeting of 6th July "owing to paucity of members" it was resolved that the members should pay for their supper at the rate of Rs. 1-8 each.

This being St. John's day the brethren met at sunrise, sat till 9, and then after adjournment met in the evening. Without any formal election having taken place, the Worshipful Master Osborne resigns his Chair which is taken by the P. M. Bro. Firminger. It does not appear from the Minutes that any ceremony of installation took place, but he appointed his officers. The whole proceeding seems to be very irregular. No Meeting is held until the 4th May, 1857, when we find an entry to the effect that the Lodge being

Dec. 27, 1850.

in debt and several brethren having left without paying "their first dues" it is resolved that each member pay a voluntary subscription of Rs. 10 to liquidate the liabilities. Only five regular members were present at this Meeting and two visitors. For the first time we find a note of a Mahomedan being elected as a joining member, *viz.*, Bro. Mahomed Ali Khan.

Bro. Osborne attends the Lodge. In the Minutes he is still styled  
 June 7, 1851.      Worshipful Master and the Bro. Firminger the "Ag. Worshipful Master." Bro. Osborne is offered the Chair which, however, he declines and says that he has simply come in order to resign his office. This apparently he had already done in December. Bro. Firminger the Ag. Worshipful Master being absent, the Senior Warden Bro. Magrath is requested to act as Worshipful Master until the next St. John's day.

The Minutes contain an explanation of the peculiar incident related  
 above. "In consequence of Bro. Firminger having retired  
 June 24.      from office and Lodge without any reason for so doing, the brethren unanimously agree that the expressions made by that Bro. in open Lodge (when?) be minutely recorded, considering it the only mode of upholding the dignity of the Craft in general and this Lodge in particular. In addition to the Minutes of last (?) proceedings Bro. Firminger said that his absence on a former occasion from Lodge was intentional (although the attendance of the brethren had been particularly requested by him as Worshipful Master) and that he was so disgusted with Masonry that he wished to have nothing more to do with it. On being asked to explain the brother said: 'he would quit this Lodge and Masonry altogether.' In spite of the Resolution of the previous Meeting that the S. W. act as Worshipful Master, Bro. Osborne attended and acted as Worshipful Master, but a ballot was held (although the middle of the year) and Bro. Farewell the S. W. was elected as Worshipful Master, was installed and invested his officers, apparently without any dispensation for such a breach of the regular procedure.

N.B.—It is clear that for several months matters have been going wrong in the Lodge. The sudden resignation of Bro. Osborne on St. John's day and irregular substitution of Bro. Firminger; the absence of any Meeting till May when Bro. Firminger was absent, the re-appearance of Bro. Osborne on 7th June; when Bro. Firminger was again absent—simply to tender his resignation; his appearance in Lodge as Worshipful Master on 17th June; the record of Bro. Firminger's remarks in open Lodge, and the irregular election of a new Worshipful Master in the middle of the year all point to a very serious quarrel. What it was about it is now impossible to say, but it is quite clear

from the record that the expressions of Bro. Firminger "made in open Lodge" must have been made on St. John's day (27th December) since he attended no Lodge afterwards and very possibly had reference to some dispute about the election of a new Worshipful Master. It is perhaps significant that the native brother elected on 27th December has not yet appeared and has sent excuses on account of sickness. From a report of a Committee appointed to enquire into the matter it is proved that the "old peon's" son has been guilty of stealing Lodge money, he is accordingly "discharged" and his father also, but in view of the latter's long service a gratuity of Rs. 100 is given to him.

A vote of thanks is recorded to Bro. Osborne for having taken the  
 July 5. Chair at the previous Meeting, which shows that in regard to the matter between him and Bro. Firminger the sympathies of the Lodge were with Bro. Osborne.

Sept. 7. A subscription of Rs. 5 monthly is sanctioned to the local poor fund.

N.B.—The Lodge is now meeting regularly and fresh members are joining—the attendance is better.

Bro. Mahomed Ali Khan attends the Lodge for the first time  
 Oct. 11. since his election, nine months ago, and proposes as candidates for initiation—

- (1) H. E. Syed Alum Ali Khan Bahadur, Sheer Jung, Suraj-ul-Mulk.
- (2) Syed Turab Ali Khan Bahadur *Salar Jung* (sic.).
- (3) Hoossein Ali Khan Jabib-ool-Dowlah.

(4) Mirza Abdul Luteef Khan and, at the same time, requested that "as it was a matter of great difficulty for them to leave the city, the Lodge for this purpose be removed to Hyderabad for the purpose of initiating, passing and raising the candidates." Upon this proposal it was resolved "that a Committee be formed to enquire into the expediency of the proposition. The Committee to be guided entirely by a reference to the Provincial Grand Lodge."

Bro. (I. G.) Phillips having died, (he had only been appointed a few months before), the Lodge expressed its regret and promised to consider the claims of his widow for assistance.

N.B.—The Mahomedan noblemen proposed as candidates by Bro. Mahomed Ali Khan were His Excellency the Minister who had only just been appointed and his nephew afterwards known as Salar Jung who became Minister about a year afterwards and then for thirty years occupied so distinguished a position, not only in the Hyderabad State but in the History of India. The "difficulty" alluded to was due to an order that had been passed by H. H. the Nizam that the Minister was on no

account to leave the city without his permission. The fact is historical, but this is scarcely the place to give the reasons for it. As will be seen by subsequent proceedings this proposition unfortunately fell through after a reference to Provincial Grand Lodge. Had the brethren exercised a little more diplomatic talent, the difficulty might have been got over by an alteration in the by-laws allowing the Lodge to meet at other places within its cable tow than Secunderabad. In that case they could have held a Meeting in Chudderghat which is a suburb of the city of Hyderabad. Had the proposition been accepted, Masonry in Secunderabad and Hyderabad would probably have greatly benefited by having Salar Jung as its Patron. This is one of the "might-have-beens" which it is now idle to discuss.

Bro. Farewell was now regularly installed having been elected  
 Dec. 27. at the previous Meeting. In returning thanks for his installation, he made a very neat little speech thanking the brethren for their co-operation and impressing on them the necessity of continuing as they had begun in brotherly love.

A letter was read from the Provincial Grand Secretary regretting that in consequence of a "constitutional difficulty" he must withhold his sanction to the temporary transfer of the Lodge to the city for the purpose of conferring degrees on certain noblemen who are prevented by circumstances of a political nature from attending the Lodge in person.

Bro. Mahomed Ali Khan was present at this Meeting and was appointed J. D. It is significant that his name does not occur again as attending the Lodge for many years and he had been only present on two other occasions—the first a year before, when he was proposed as a joining member, the second some months afterwards when he proposed the names of the noblemen and the third time when the removal of the Lodge was disallowed. \*

Brigadiers Hampton and Doria, the latter an old member, are elected  
 Feb. 7, 1852. Honorary Members. An application was read at this Meeting from Bro. Mahomed Ali Khan for permission to retire from the Lodge. He was evidently chagrined that his proposal regarding the "noblemen" had been negatived, and it seems probable that his only reason for joining the Lodge was to bring this about. It is a matter for regret that he did not succeed.

Mar. 6. Two Assistant Apothecaries were black-balled.

N.B.—The Lodge continues to prosper and fresh candidates and joining members are announced at each Meeting, and there is a Meeting regularly every month.

A Special Meeting convened because the Worshipful Master wishes  
 Aug. 3. to say good-bye to the brethren as he is leaving the  
 Station with his Regiment for Foreign Service in Burma.

It was then proposed that a P. M. should be called upon to take the Chair for the rest of the evening. To this the Secretary objects on the ground that degrees can only be conferred by an installed Master and that therefore, following the precedent of the present Worshipful Master they should proceed to elect and install a Worshipful Master in regular fashion. After some discussion this was agreed to and Bro. Pollard was elected.

*Note.*—It is quite clear that a P. M. is an installed Master, otherwise he could not form one of a Board of installed Masters. As under the by-laws a specific day is mentioned for the election it should only take place on that day. Any vacancy occurring before should be temporarily filled by a P. M. who is fully qualified to confer a degree. This would not interfere with the S. W. being in charge of the Lodge for ordinary routine business. (*Query.* Would a brother who had merely “passed” the Chair, as was then so frequently the case, be qualified as a P. M.?) And now occurs a singular incident in connection with this very point. The Worshipful Master asked all M. M. to retire so that the new Worshipful Master-Elect might be installed in a P. M. Lodge. To this the Bro. Secretary very respectfully objected on the following grounds:—

(1) That the P. M. degree had been declared by late Masonic records to be illegal and that in all Returns no P. M. was allowed such a title unless he had been an actual Past Master of a Lodge.

(2) That ancient Masonry only consisted of the three degrees and respectfully submits his opinion that a M. M. was entitled to witness all proceedings in a M. M. Lodge, otherwise the Lodge would have to be opened in a 4th or illegal degree.

(3) That such installations had formerly taken place in this Lodge in the presence of M. M. not P. M's and that for the foregoing reasons, and as many P. M's were present at the last occasion, who were now in Lodge he respectfully requested the Worshipful Master to reconsider the subject.

The matter was discussed and the sense of the Lodge being against the objection it was overruled. Before leaving, however, the Bro. Secretary respectfully announced his intention of referring the question to the Provincial Grand Lodge and to the Grand Lodge of England.

Ensign Isacks who had been announced as a candidate at the previous

Sept. 4.

Meeting and duly elected being absent without excuse the Worshipful Master "desired the Secretary to write and inform that gentleman that should he still wish to be initiated into the Craft, it will be incumbent on him to furnish good and satisfactory reasons for his non-attendance." A very sensible and dignified proceeding, and one which it would be as well always to follow.

Enquiry was ordered into the claim of a Portuguese named Gamboa who applied for relief on the ground that his father had been a Mason and that he had already been received by the Lodge at Kamptec. The Secretary complains that no acknowledgment had been received from Provincial Grand Lodge of the receipt of Rs. 94 sent for the dues of the half-year ending December 1851. The Worshipful Master desired that the "Secretary would write and respectfully demand the cause of such irregularity."

Ensign Isacks having sent a satisfactory excuse another ballot was held for him and two other joining members. Rs. 15 was sanctioned as a payment for the relief of Mr. Gamboa, a similar sum having been paid by the Lodge at Kamptec.

A Lodge of Instruction was held at which also a ballot was held for the admission of a new candidate. This seems to be

Oct. 16.

irregular. Instruction was given in the 2nd and 3rd degrees and then the candidate was initiated—also irregular—unless notice had been given in the summons.

"It having been rumoured that Bro. Papell who has been invited

Dec. 11, 1852.

from Madras for Masonic purposes and whose journey has been defrayed by the members of the Lodge, intends availing himself of the opportunity, of officiating in a legal capacity connected with the purpose for which he has been invited, it was unanimously resolved that Bro. Secretary be requested to write, or at all events have an interview with that brother for the purpose of pointing out what discredit such a proceeding would reflect not only on the Craft in general, but also on St. John's Lodge and its members in particular; and urging him to forego any such intention should it ever have been entertained, and that should Bro. Secretary's remonstrance be of no avail, a Committee be immediately assembled and Bro. Papell be requested to appear before it. Bro. Papell appears as a visitor at this Meeting, and as

Dec. 27.

there is no further allusion to the mysterious Resolution of the last Meeting, and as it was also resolved that Bro. Papell should act as Honorary P. M. of the Lodge in the Provincial Grand Lodge, the matter must have been amicably settled. Bro.

Papell then takes the Chair, gives a lecture and afterwards installs Bro. Pollard as Worshipful Master. Strange to say there is again no record of any election having taken place at either of the previous Meetings. Bro. Farewell, *Ex-Worshipful Master*, has returned from Burma and is appointed I. P. M.

Bro. Papell was again present at this Meeting and in reply to a  
 Jan. 8, 1835. vote of thanks regretted that it was not in his power to instruct the brethren still further in the *higher degrees of Masonry*, but assured them that in the proud position of Representative of the Lodge at Provincial Grand Lodge his exertions would be untiring on their behalf. It would be interesting to know what Bro. Papell came to Secunderabad for, and how a rumour could have got about that he was going to "act legally" in connection with it, and what was the legal action he could have taken, had he so wished.

*N.B.*—The matter of dues appears to be constantly troubling the brethren and every now and then Resolutions on the subject are passed.

A Dr. Lea, who presented himself for admission was not allowed to  
 March 5. enter as he had left his Grand Lodge Certificate at home. Later in the evening he returned provided with the certificate, proved himself and was admitted, subsequently being proposed as a joining member.

Worshipful Master Pollard stating that he will shortly be  
 Aug. 6. leaving the station requested that a letter be sent to Bro. Farewell who was absent from the Lodge requesting him to act as Worshipful Master for the rest of the year. During the rest of the year Bro. Farewell's name appears as Worshipful Master.

Again the matter of arrears was brought up and the brethren who  
 Oct. 1. have been written to and have not replied are again warned "that if no satisfactory notice be taken of this final communication their names will be reported to Grand Lodge as defaulters." Verily there is nothing new under the sun and the trouble of 50 years ago occurs again now. These constant threats of reporting defaulters appear to be of little good and it seems absolutely necessary action should be taken if only "*pour encourager les autres.*"

It appears that at this time the Chapter was indebted to the Lodge in the sum of Rs. 140 and the Worshipful Master moves that it should be allowed to stand over. This was agreed to, and it will be remembered that on a former occasion the Chapter gave assistance to the Lodge and there is no record that the money then advanced was ever repaid. To this the Bro. Secretary objected on the ground that the

funds of the different degrees should be kept separate. It appears from his remarks that the money due by the Chapter had been actually advanced to the Encampment which had possibly been started when Bro. Papell had visited Secunderabad in the previous December and had "instructed the brethren in the higher degrees of Masonry."

Many of the brethren are reported as being about to leave the station with their regiments and amongst them the Ag. Worshipful Master Farewell. A ballot is accordingly held for another Worshipful Master and Bro. Maillardet was elected. Only one more Meeting was held during the year on the 5th November when a Treasurer and a Tyler were chosen and the record of this Meeting closes Book No. II.

Between Book No. II and Book No. III there is a gap of 5 years and the next Meeting recorded was held on the 27th May, 1858. Fourteen brethren were present, all of them new names and it appears that for some time the Lodge must have been in abeyance because the first entry is concerning a communication from Provincial Grand Lodge giving authority for the renewal of the Warrant of Constitution of Lodge St. John's and Bro. Captain Reader "be appointed to and installed as Worshipful Master in the room of Bro. Wells returned to Europe."

It is impossible to say what had happened during the interim. It is possible that the Meeting of 5th November, 1853, had been the last, because there are still two blank pages left in the Book No. II and these would probably have been filled in before commencing another one. Many important events had happened since 1853. There had been the Crimean War and then the great Mutiny of 1857 which had probably called most of the brethren away, since the great majority were still military men. The Worshipful Master took his seat and appointed his officers; the Meeting day was altered to the 1st Monday; a Committee was appointed to enquire into the affairs of the Lodge, two new candidates were announced and the joining fee until the 1st General Meeting was reduced to Rs. 5.

(N.B.—The Minutes are recorded in a very clear and legible hand and with more detail than has been usually the case.)

During the next few months the Lodge is prospering. Many new candidates come forward and frequent Emergent Meetings are held in order to clear off the work. Nothing of importance is on record until

Sept. 6, 1858. when, after the usual work of degrees, a letter was read from Bro. Cyril White, a Lieutenant in the 12th Royal

Oct. 4. Lancers at Banda, forwarding a donation of Rs. 103 to the Lodge in acknowledgment of which a letter of thanks was sent.

After resolving to purchase some "article" to be selected by a Committee to commemorate the liberality of Bro. White, a correspondence between two members of the Lodge, Bros. Hearn and Atkinson, was read regarding a difference of a purely private nature which however was such that it prevented them from meeting on brotherly terms in the Lodge. In the first letter Bro. Atkinson expresses his regret that "any disaffection should exist between us and my desire that those terms of friendship conformable with Masonry be restored." In the second letter Bro. Hearn declines this overture because "Bro. Atkinson is well aware that his conduct towards me has been such as to render it impossible we could ever again be on terms of intimacy. As a Mason I bear no ill-will towards him and regret he could not have remembered on other occasions his duties towards me as a Mason, which would have prevented him from committing a great breach of friendship and offering an insult to a house where he had met with every kindness and hospitality and been received on terms of the greatest intimacy.

I am willing, if called upon, to enter fully into an explanation of the cause of our difference with the brethren and if they think my grounds for declining to be again on terms of friendship with Bro. Atkinson are unreasonable, I shall abide by their decision, though it would give me much regret to retire from the Lodge."

The Wardens had been appointed to settle this dispute, for both letters are addressed to them. Finding themselves unable to adjust the difference "which has arisen between them on private affairs and which renders it impossible for them to sit in Lodge together" they recommend "that both the brethren should retire from the Lodge." With this opinion the Worshipful Master agreed and accordingly the Warden sent an identical letter to the two brethren informing them of the "painful duty to request them to withdraw their names from Lodge St. John."

Worshipful Bro. Wright having been elected at the last Meeting and "having already previously held the office of Master  
**Dec. 6.** Mason of a Lodge installed himself, and assumed the duties of a Worshipful Master of the Lodge St. John. Bro. Reader was prevented from attending by illness."

The Secretary, Bro. Jennings, retires from the Lodge owing to bad health and his absence is marked by the difference in the way the Minutes are kept.  
**Jan. 3, 1859.**

A vote of regret and condolence is recorded at the death of Bro. Captain White of the 12th Lancers who, a few months before, had sent so handsome a donation to the Lodge.  
**April 3.**

Rs. 150 was ordered to be sent to Provincial Grand  
 July 4. Lodge to assist in Masonic charities.

Bro. Major Wells of the Royals having been elected Worshipful

Dec. 5. Master at the previous Meeting was installed. The practice of holding a Meeting on St. John's day in winter appears to have been given up, for the next Meeting was held on 2nd January, 1860.

Bro. Wells appears to have left the Station after February 2nd, and the Minutes are signed by Bro. Chas. Wright as acting Worshipful Master. Nothing of importance occurs during these months except the record of ordinary work of which there seems to have been a good deal.

Bro. Hulseberg, an Assistant Surgeon, having been elected at the  
 Dec. 3, 1860. previous Meeting was installed and a vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Wright who had been practically Worshipful Master for the last two years.

The Grand Lodge having made a complaint regarding the defective  
 March 16, 1867. state of the Lodge returns and books, it was resolved to appoint Bro. Deacon as Secretary for the rest of the year, the regular Secretary having left, and he is requested to prepare a general statement of the affairs of the Lodge, outstandings, etc., from the date of the revival of the Lodge up to present time.

April 1. Rs. 101 voted to the Famine Relief Fund.

May 6. Rs. 50 donation voted to the widow of the late Tyler Hammond.

We find Past Master Wright again officiating in the  
 October 6. Chair, the permanent Worshipful Master being absent temporarily.

Bro. Deacon elected Worshipful Master for ensuing year and installed at the next Meeting on 2nd December. Owing

Nov. 4. to the small number of subscribing brethren the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were combined.

No Lodge was opened "there being an insufficient number of  
 Jany. 6, 1862. brethren." This finishes page 102 of the 3rd Book and then we come across on pages 103 and 104 a letter written upside down, and bearing date of 12th June, 1858. It is a copy of a letter written to Provincial Grand Lodge by Worshipful Master Reader soon after the reopening of the Lodge in 1858 and describes its condition and the hopes of future success. He speaks of the accounts having been left in disorder, "probably because the brethren had been ordered off in a hurry and had no time to leave behind them more than a confused statement." There were however only a few claims against the Lodge

which would be adjusted. "The Lodge property is in very good order, and I have seldom seen a better appointed one." He speaks of several candidates having been proposed and of his intention to work once a week and hopes that the Lodge will become one of the most flourishing in the Province. He hopes also to reopen the Chapter, but at present there are only 5 R. A. Masons.

The cost of reopening the Lodge as fee to Provincial Grand Lodge was Rs. 50. Pages 105 and 106 appear to have been torn out of the book and the proceedings of February 1862 are missing with the exception of the last para.

**March 3.** No Lodge owing to insufficient number of brethren.

An attendance of 13 brethren and our old friend, Bro. Mahomed Ali Khan, appears as a visitor. The old bye-laws being exhausted it was resolved to revise them, and at the next Meeting they were adopted. At this Lodge a letter of good-bye is read from Bro. Wright who has done such good service during the past four years. He is about to proceed to England and thanks the brethren for the Jewel which they have asked him to accept. A reward which certainly had been well deserved.

The Lodge continues to meet with regularity and several new candidates and joining members are announced. The numbers attending however are small and average not more than ten. Nothing of importance is transacted. Towards the end of the year the attendance improves.

The rest of this book pages 132 to 177 are taken up with subscription lists of members from May 1852 to February 1854 when it is stated that the Lodge ceased to work, and then follows a page showing the donations paid by the different brethren on reopening the Lodge in 1858. The last Minute before the Lodge went into abeyance was November 1853, so it appears to have languished though there is no record of any Meeting until February 1854 when the books close with a note by the Secretary that the Lodge is in his debt Rs. 200 "which I give up." This book has evidently been first used as a subscription book and then when the Lodge reopened commenced as a Minute Book beginning at the other end.

Minute Book No. IV. This book is quite complete and contains 292 written and 18 blank pages and records the proceedings from November 3rd, 1862 to December 23rd, 1869.

Bro. Martin is installed in the Chair. Only the usual routine work of initiation and conferring degrees was transacted during the next year and the Minutes are couched in the briefest possible manner, no details being given. In September a

**Dec. 1, 1862.**

communication from the Grand Lodge of England was received in which it was recorded that the number of the Lodge had been altered from 628 to 434 which number it still continues to bear. In the proceedings of 5th October and 2nd November two rather peculiar entries occur. In the first of these there occurs a proposition that a Lieut. Edmund Pinchard of the 18th Royal Irish be initiated, but this entry is scratched out and the word "cancelled" written across it. In the Minutes of the next Meeting the entry occurs "Lient. Pinchard *was* balloted for as a candidate and elected" but this is also scratched out with the word "cancelled" written across. Apparently after having been proposed and balloted for, something occurred which prevented Lieut. Pinchard from presenting himself for initiation. If so it would have been more regular to have recorded the fact than to strike out a portion of the proceedings which had been entered and confirmed. There seems to have been a practice on election day for the candidate or candidates for the office of Worshipful Master to be asked to retire whilst the election was taking place.

At an Emergent Meeting Bro. Blumberg was  
**Dec. 26, 1863.** installed in the Chair. Day of Meeting altered from first Monday to last Saturday.

An application from the orphanage next door to  
**Jany. 30, 1864.** the Lodge to give a portion of the Lodge compound as a play-ground was refused.

*N.B.*—The orphanage is still next to the Lodge and the compound of the former is quite big enough for the requirements of a play-ground. Possibly the orphanage may have subsequently received a grant from the Cantonment authorities.

The Worshipful Master Blumberg writes to bid the brethren  
**April 30.** good-bye as he is leaving the Station, and the Past Master Bro. Martin acts in his place.

An appeal having been received from the Provincial Grand Master (Col. Pitt-MacDonald) on behalf of a "Lady who was in deep distress, her brother who had been supporting her, having died" a sum of Rs. 50 was ordered to be sent.  
**May 28.**

The matter of arrears again crops up and a Committee is appointed  
**June 9.** "with full powers" to take the necessary steps. At the next Meeting the Report of the Committee was submitted, read, adopted and filed, but not recorded.

A dispensation was received from the Provincial Grand Lodge for the election of a new Worshipful Master. At the next  
**July 9.** Meeting in July Bro. Stevenson was elected and installed.

At an Emergent Meeting in September Bro. Martin, a Past Master who has been acting as Worshipful Master, is appointed Provincial Grand Junior Warden and the letter of Appointment was read out.

Jan. 28, 1865.

A bye-law is passed that the following subscriptions be paid by each member :—

|                                                   | H.S. Rs. |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Quarterly to Benefit Fund, Provincial Grand Lodge | 1        |
| Monthly, St. John's Box                           | 1        |
| Lodge expenses                                    | 2        |

Brethren who put their names down in the notice for refreshments to pay one share of dinner and sherry, whether they dine or not. Beer and Brandy and Sodas, extra. This new bye-law to be tried as an experiment for two months.

An Emergent Meeting was called to elect a representative at the next P. G. Communication. Bro. Pales, Secretary to Mount Lodge, No. 926, was nominated and, at the same time, elected an Honorary Member of St. John's. At the Regular Meeting of this month a "distressed brother" applied to the Lodge in person for relief. Having proved himself and his case having been enquired into, he was admitted and informed that Rs. 50 had been sanctioned. At this Meeting "the Worshipful Master read a letter from the Grand Secretary and proposed that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the subject" but what the subject was is not recorded. A letter was also received from Bro. (blank in Minutes) at Rangoon about attachment of a Mark Master Lodge to St. John's, but a requisite number of Mark Masters not being present in the Station the Secretary was requested to inform Bro. of the fact.\*

An Emergent Meeting was held to confer degrees on brethren who had been kept waiting, and on 30th December Bro. Tennant was placed in the Chair as "Very" Worshipful Master. No record of any other Meeting having taken place occurs till 28th April, 1866, when we find that the Worshipful Master Bro. Tennant has gone to England. Bro. Aubrey Saunders† who has recently joined the Lodge was proposed as Acting Worshipful Master. This he declined on the ground that he was already Worshipful Master of Lodge Good Will, No. 465, and therefore could not accept another Chair without a dispensation, but he promised to attend the Meetings; to assist in work-

\* Eventually a Mark Lodge in connection with Burma was opened—see history of Lodge Keystone.

† This is the first time that the name of this distinguished Brother (afterward D.G.M. of Madras) appears in connection with St. John. During the next few years, he was one of the most prominent characters in Hyderabad Masonry.

ing the degrees and to communicate with Provincial Grand Lodge. Two Meetings subsequently, on the 26th May, the correspondence was read. It appears that although duly elected on the 21st November no actual installation had taken place on the 30th December because, as entered in the Minutes, there was not a sufficient number of brethren present. The J. Warden who had been appointed by Bro. Tennant was not only not present, but was not even a member of the Lodge (although he had expressed the intention to join). Under these circumstances both Bro. Tennant and the J. W.-elect being absent from the Station, the Provincial Grand Lodge ruled that Bro. Tennant never having been obligated or installed all acts done by him in the capacity of Worshipful Master were invalid. Under these circumstances the 9th June was appointed for the election of a Worshipful Master, Treasurer and Tyler. Bro. Saunders suggested that Bro. (Col.) Smithers should be elected and this was done on the 9th June and on 25th he was duly installed, there being no less than 25 brethren present. At this Meeting a set of revised bye-laws were passed which are entered in the Minutes. During the rest of the year there was a large number of candidates and joining members and several Emergent Meetings were held for the purpose of conferring degrees.

The Worshipful Master found it necessary to inform the brethren  
 July 28, 1866. that they should attend Lodge in full dress or in uniform and also that it was unconstitutional to wear Mark and Templar jewels in Blue Lodge.

A communication from Provincial Grand Lodge was read authorising  
 Aug. 25. Bro. Saunders (D. G. S. W.) to inspect and report on the different Lodges in the District which he might happen to inspect during his term of office. A subscription is also started for a library, and the scheme submitted by the English Grand Lodge for educating orphans of Masons was approved of.

The official inspection by Bro. Saunders on behalf of Provincial  
 Nov. 3. Grand Lodge took place. This appears to have been the first inspection of the Lodge since its foundation. He was duly received with grand honours and performed the ceremony of initiation on two candidates.

Bro. Walker elected at the last Regular Meeting was duly installed  
 Dec. 27. as Worshipful Master (strange to say there are two identical records of the proceedings of this Meeting in the Minute Book).

The funds appear to be in so flourishing a condition that it was  
 Jan. 26, 1867. proposed to make advances to other Lodges (presumably Mark, Chapter, etc.) to enable them to pay off certain liabilities for refreshments due to the caterer.

The report of the Permanent Committee was read from which it appears that since 1st January Rs. 1,111-13-7 had been collected, out of which Rs. 324-13-7 had been expended, from the balance a sum of Rs. 537 was sanctioned as payment on account to sundry creditors.

A circular from Provincial Grand Lodge asking for a subscription to purchase a portrait of the late Provincial Grand Master, Geul. Pitt Macdonald, and to found a scholarship in his name. After a eulogy on the late Provincial Grand Master who had ruled the Craft in S. India for 9 years a sum of Rs. 50 was voted.

At an Emergent Meeting the Worshipful Master being about to proceed to England on leave, says good-bye to the brethren and receives a vote of thanks.

Bro. Stubbs having presented a handsome volume of the 'Sacred Law' received a vote of thanks. A communication from the Grand Lodge of England was read, in which it is stated that there is no jewel recognized as a Master Mason's jewel and that the wearing of any called by such a name is irregular and unauthorized.

The Lodge continues to prosper during the rest of the year in spite of the absence of the Worshipful Master. Bro. (Captain) Aubrey Saunders continues to take a very active part and generally officiates as Worshipful Master.

A Lodge of Instruction was held in the 1st and 2nd degrees. Bro. Saunders presiding.

A very full Meeting. The initiation of a Mahomedan candidate had to be postponed owing to the absence of a Koran.

A notice from Grand Lodge was read appointing Arthur Macdonald Ritchie as Provincial Grand Master.

Bro. Saunders was elected to the Chair, but being absent was not installed until the 23rd March following when the I. P. M. Bro. Walker presented to the Lodge a handsomely bound copy of the Constitutions. For some time the Lodge continued to hold an Emergent Meeting every month in addition to the regular one in order to clear off the accumulation of degrees. The Minutes are now very clearly and fully kept, and altogether the Lodge appears to be in a high state of efficiency. Bro. Ramsey appears as Secretary.

An appeal was read on behalf of the widow and children of the late Bro. Scott, the District Grand Secretary, whose death had been reported to the previous Meeting. In succession

to Bro. Scott, Bro. J. T. Greatorex had been appointed Grand Secretary. At the next a sum of Rs. 50 was voted from the Lodge funds on behalf of Mrs. Scott. In July the Lodge was re-visited by Bro. Doria, a former P. M. who, having returned to the Station, expressed his pleasure at finding the Lodge in so flourishing a state, and at this opportunity of renewing his connection with it. It is again resolved to strictly enforce the bye-law regarding arrears and that anyone more than two months in arrears should be ineligible to fill any office, to vote, or to propose a candidate.

In August a letter was read from Bro. McGowan, a former member, sending Rs. 100 towards the purchase of iron gates, for which a vote of thanks was duly recorded and at this Meeting Bro. Doria, a P. M. and Bro. Gadsden, formerly of No. 1, Grand Master Lodge, were elected joining members.

The first Lodge of sorrow on account of the death of brother  
 Sep. 24. Mohamed-ud-Dowlah, Mirza Ali Khan. This appears to  
 have been the brother whom we have frequently mentioned as Mahomed Ali Khan and for the last two years his attendance has been very regular.

Certain additions to the bye-laws were resolved upon, the most  
 Sep. 26. important of which was fixing the election of Worshipful  
 Master and Treasurer for the Regular Meeting in November and the installation for St. John's day in December, on which occasion the Worshipful Master shall also nominate the Permanent Committee. The following rule seems to be a good one: "No candidate shall be proposed for initiation until, through the Brother proposing him, he shall have lodged with the Treasurer the sum of Rs. 10, such amount to be returned in the event of his being black-balled but forfeited should he fail to appear for initiation," and again "No degree shall be conferred or Brother proposed for admission unless the fee in each case shall have been previously paid."

It is to be noted that during this year what has hitherto been called the Provincial Grand Lodge on the Coast of Coromandel is now styled the District Grand Lodge of Madras.

Before handing over charge to the new Worshipful Master in December, the Permanent Committee submitted its Report which has been read at an Emergent Meeting on 5th December. After having found that the books were in proper order, all dues paid and returns sent, the Committee speaks of several improvements that have been carried and recounts the work done. It will be remembered that Bro. Saunders was not actually installed until March, but during the rest of the year he

held 9 Regular and 7 Emergent Meetings, the average attendance at the former being 25 and at the latter 20. During that time 16 initiates and 7 new brethren had joined—bringing up the total (after deducting 6 resignations and 1 death) to 48. It was during this year that the Warrant of Confirmation was received from the Grand Lodge in England.

Altogether the Lodge seems to have flourished under Bro. Saunders' rule. The dues are spoken of as being regularly collected, the outstandings being only Rs. 122. A large sum of Rs. 800 however due by former members had been struck off. In spite of this and in spite of old debts to the amount of Rs. 1,100 having been paid, the balance to the credit of the Lodge was Rs. 270 and to the Fund of Benevolence, Rs. 373.

Bro. Saunders deserved credit for a short but most satisfactory year's work.

Bro. Gadsden, who had been elected at the last Regular Meeting,  
 Dec. 28, 1868. was duly installed at a very well-attended Meeting. No other business of importance was transacted beyond the announcement of some candidates and joining members and the usual votes of thanks.

During this year two Lodges of Instruction were held at Emergent Meetings, and the Regular Meetings were well attended. The Lodge continued to prosper and the Minutes are exceedingly well kept by a new Secretary, Bro. States. From the Report of the Permanent Committee which is again embodied in the Minutes it appears that several important improvements had been carried out. A much-wanted and long-talked-of compound wall had been erected at a cost of Rs. 526, of which Rs. 323 had been subscribed by the brethren and the balance from Lodge Funds. During the year there had been 11 Regular, 2 Emergent and 2 Instruction Meetings with an average attendance of 22, 18 and 13 respectively. 7 new candidates had been admitted and advanced and 5 new joining members, there had been 12 resignations owing to members leaving, but the total strength is 50, or two more than at the end of the previous year. Rs. 230 had been given from the Fund of Benevolence to various charitable institutions in Secunderabad and Madras and England. The state of the Lodge Funds was also very satisfactory, there being a balance of 449-4-1 to the credit of the Lodge and Rs. 230-1-11 to the Benevolent Fund. The dues are said to have been collected regularly. This very satisfactory report forms the last entry in Book No. IV. This practice of entering the Annual Report of the Permanent Committee in the Minute Books cannot be too highly commended, especially from the historian's point of view as it shows at a glance the work done during the year. The Worshipful

Master-Elect for the next year is Bro. Ramsey who, a year before, had made so excellent a Secretary.

Book No. V opens with the installation of Bro. Ramsey on the 27th December, 1869. Nothing of importance transpires during the first part of the year. The Lodge meets regularly and holds several Emergent Meetings in order to clear off work. There is a continually fluctuating stream of candidates, joining members and resignations owing to brethren being ordered away on duty. A considerable amount was spent in the purchase of new furniture. There are frequent applications for relief and for donations to charities, both Local and Masonic, which are always liberally responded to. In July we find a Clergyman, Bro. Liston, appointed as Chaplain. The different Masonic institutions using the building are the R. A. Chapter, Mark Lodge Keystone and the K. T. Encampment. They shared the expenses of the servants, the Craft Lodge paying  $\frac{2}{3}$  and the others jointly  $\frac{1}{3}$ . A sum of Rs. 993 (excluding the Harmonium) having been spent in furniture, improvements, etc., it was resolved that the amount be divided into 9 shares of Rs. 110 each, of which the Craft Lodge should pay 6 shares and the other institutions one share each.

In September it was resolved to circulate a subscription list with the object of presenting W. P. M. Saunders and Bro. Smithers with P. M's jewels in gold, in recognition of the services they had rendered to the Lodge. In November Bro. Twentyman was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. An account of the year's work was read and is reproduced in the Minutes of the next Meeting. A lot of new clothing was purchased during the year, various improvements to the building, etc., etc. During the year there were 12 initiations, 16 passings, 15 raisings and 8 joinings. There were however 14 resignations, so that the strength of the Lodge at the close of the year was 55 or 5 more than at the commencement. Attention was very properly drawn to the want of a place of safe custody for the old records and it was recommended that a strong box, lined with tin, be procured for that purpose. This was afterwards done. The financial condition of the Lodge is not mentioned in this Report. At this Meeting (*27th December*) the new Worshipful Master Twentyman was installed and the jewels to Bros. Saunders and Smithers were presented. The new Worshipful Master presented a handsome dagger to the Lodge, and Bro. Saunders gave a P. M's jewel to be worn in Lodge by the I. P. M. and, at the same time, announced that as he was leaving the Station his name should be removed from the list of members. A vote of thanks was then passed and in recognition of the really excellent work he had done for the Lodge during the past three years, he was elected an Honorary Member.





O. F. Smithers, P.M.



A. W. O. Saunders, P.M.



F. Gadsden, P.M.



G. F. Ramsay, P.M.

A proposition was Brought forward that "no Brother who shall have been previously a member of St. John's Lodge shall be chargeable with a joining fee on his return to Secunderabad, provided that his resignation was solely caused by his removal from the Station on duty, and that his application to be permitted to rejoin be made within three months of his return to Secunderabad." This is to be a very fair proposal, but would seem to apply to Military members only. It would seem desirable that a similar indulgence should be conceded to Civilian members. This proposal was duly carried at the next Regular Meeting.

A Bro. Eduljee Hormusjee having held an angry correspondence with the Steward and having refused to attend Lodge or to apologize was ordered to be excluded (*25th March*) and the circumstance was reported to the District Grand Secretary. During the year the Lodge lost the services of Bro. Smithers, P.M., who was ordered away but kept his name on the absent list. Bro. Smithers had been a member of the Lodge for 8 years and had steadily worked his way up. His attendance had been most regular and he well deserved the vote of thanks which he received. The widow of a late Brother (Ford) being in distress a handsome donation from Lodge funds of Rs. 50 and Rs. 185 from private subscriptions was given (*27th May*).

The Secretary (P. M. Gadsden) announced his intention of attending at the Hall two or three times a week for the transaction of business—a very sensible arrangement.

On the recommendation of the Deputy District Grand Master a Bro. Hadji Mahomed Ali Khan Bahadur was admitted as a joining member (*26th August*).

The three other institutions not having paid the shares for repairs, etc., and certain dues to the Benevolent Fund amounting in all to Rs. 425, the portion due to the Benevolent Fund (Rs. 95) was ordered to be struck off, but the remaining debts were to be retained on the book. At this Meeting a Resolution was passed which however was rescinded at the next Regular Meeting, expressing the regret of the Lodge that the Worshipful Master and Wardens had for a long time past received no appointments to District Grand Lodge\* and that during the last 3 years only one notice of Grand Lodge Communication had been received; and further its regret "that Communications, called Regular Communications, have been held at periods, other than those imperatively directed in Para. 10, Section 2 of the Constitutions." These proposals were carried by a majority after some discussion and in spite of a protest from the Secretary and P.M. Gadsden who, holding them

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\* This appears to be rather a standing complaint in Lodge St. Johns.

to be improper and disloyal, tendered his resignation as Secretary. At the next Regular Meeting on the 28th October the subject was again discussed and Bro. Ramsey said: "Owing to a full explanation having been received from Wor. Bro. Greator, the District Grand Secretary, he requested that the 1st and 3rd Resolutions recorded in the previous Minutes be rescinded, and that the 2nd Resolution might be embodied in a letter to the District Grand Master." This was the Resolution referring to the irregular communications. The two rescinded Resolutions referred to were—1 regarding Worshipful Master and P. M's not having been elected to District Grand Lodge and 2 to Bro. Gadsden's resignation. At this Meeting no less than nine members (including Bro. Ramsey) tendered their resignations owing to their Regiment having been under orders to leave, and it was decided to give them a send-off dinner.

Bro. Wilkins was elected as Worshipful Master. The name of Bro.

Nov. 25, 1871.

Twentyman, the Worshipful Master of the year, does not appear in this and the last Minutes and there is no entry of his having left the Station. This looks as if there had been some friction on account of the rescinded Resolutions which were passed when he was in the Chair. At this Meeting it was decided to take in the Masonic Herald. It was also decided to defer the installation banquet on St. John's day owing to the kit, furniture, etc., being required for the races which were to be held on that day.

At this Meeting a letter was read from Bro. Simner protesting against the election of Bro. Wilkins as Worshipful Master, since it had been omitted to mention the name of Bro.

Dec. 27.

Cookson as one of the brethren eligible for the office. It appears from the debate that followed that Bro. Cookson was several months in arrears of his dues. On the Worshipful Master putting the matter to the Lodge the election was confirmed. From the Annual Report which was read out at this Meeting we learn that there was a cash balance in hand of Rs. 691-0-11. The total amount in favour of the Lodge being Rs. 1,369-7-4 with Rs. 343-13-11 in favour of the Fund of Benevolence. During the year the Lodge clock appears to have been stolen during the temporary absence of one of the peons. During the year there were 8 initiations, 9 passings, 10 raisings and 23 joinings which raised the number of members to 79. There were however 27 resignations and three deaths which reduced the number to 49 or one more than the year opened with. There were 12 Regular and 5 Emergent Meetings. A feature of all these Annual Reports is the continually repeated praise of the way the Steward, Bro. Stone, has done his work. Bro. Wilkins was then installed in the usual manner. The case of Bro. White was brought before this Meeting. This Brother had come from Lodge

St. Andrews and had joined St. John's as an E. A. in 1869, but his mother-Lodge had failed to send his Grand Lodge Certificate. After a reference to District Grand Lodge the Grand Secretary said that he would again apply to St. Andrews and if they did not send a certificate he would send another and charge the same to St. Andrews. Several brethren coming from Lodge Astroëa in Burma (No. 674) had been admitted without Grand Lodge Certificates and the Lodge being as it was stated "in a very peculiar position as regards funds," the subject was made the matter of correspondence with the District Grand Lodge of Burma and was therefore allowed to stand over.

It was announced that the I. P. M., Bro. Gadsden, had been appointed D. G. J. W., but there is no record of his having been saluted as such on the announcement. At this Meeting **Jan. 27, 1872.** Bro. Johnstone brought to notice that two or three residents in Chuddergat "had spurious works on Freemasonry and hoped the young members of the Lodge would be on their guard." This warning was endorsed by the Worshipful Master.

A vote of condolence was passed at "the untimely death of the Lord Patron of Masonry in India, the late Viceroy Lord **Mar. 23.** Mayo." The Worshipful Master announced that owing to ill-health he would have to leave the Station for 6 months. After this record there occurs a blank page, and then strange to say the Minutes of another Meeting in a different hand writing but bearing the same date 23rd March, 1872. The presiding officer at the two Meetings is different—at the first it was the regular Worshipful Master and at the second the I. P. M. as officiating. The first is called an Emergent and the second a Regular Meeting.

One of the brethren pointed out that the Minutes are inaccurately kept. The Acting Worshipful Master announced his **April 27.** intention of giving lectures in May and June on the history of the Lodge from its foundation 50 years before. In May a letter from Lodge Astroëa was read, stating that one of the brethren who had joined from there had taken with him some Lodge property and requesting that he be called upon to return it.

The Brother from Burma alluded to in the last Proceedings having failed to furnish the explanation as also to pay his own **June 24.** dues, his name was ordered to be struck off and reported to District Grand Lodge.

*N.B.*—It does not appear that a formal notice to show cause had been served on this Brother.

The case of the Brother from Burma having been spoken of outside the Lodge, the Worshipful Master warns the brethren that "if any Brother was detected divulging the Lodge transactions he should cause the necessary steps to be taken for his expulsion." The Worshipful Master then delivered a lecture on the history of the Lodge for the first four years, but unfortunately there is no record of the lecture itself beyond the entry that it was delivered and a vote of thanks passed. A letter was read from District Grand Lodge asking whether St. Johns had any "objection to the proposed alteration of the District Grand Lodge bye-law." It is not stated what the bye-law was or what alteration was proposed, but no objection was raised. Rs. 114 was sanctioned for certain repairs.

July 27, 1872. A petition was read asking for the recommendation of the Lodge for the formation of a new Lodge at Chudderghat to be called Lodge Deccan.

Aug. 31. Wor. Bro. Sheppard a P. M. was elected Worshipful Master for the next year. The District Grand Lodge clothing was duly presented to Wor. Bro. Gadsden in open Lodge.

Nov. 30. Wor. Bro. Sheppard was installed by Wor. Bro. Gadsden. From the Permanent Committee's Report we find that the number of members was reduced to 43 of which, 7 are absent members. There were only 12 joinings and 3 initiations during the year and 21 resignations. The outstandings under subscriptions amounted to Rs. 258 and of Stewards' accounts to Rs. 137-13.0. The amount of cash balance is not stated. A new Lodge named "Mayo" having been formed appears as working at Trimulgherry. A letter is read from the Secretary stating that in future the Worshipful Master and Wardens of St. Johns would be regarded as Honorary Members of Mayo. This is the first notice we find of the existence of this Lodge which seems to have been started and opened without any recommendation from St. John's, at all events there is no entry in the Minutes. This therefore is the 2nd English Lodge that has been started in the neighbourhood during the year, and will, to some extent, account for the reduction in the number of St. Johns. Bro. Stone who, for many years, has been a prominent member of St. Johns appears as the first Secretary of "Mayo."

Dec. 27. Testimonials were given to the Secretary, Bro. Fearn, and the Steward, Bro. C. Stone, for the able work done by them.

Jan. 25, 1873. This Bro. Stone has already been several times mentioned in the capacity of Steward and is a different person to the E. H. Stone who was a member of St. Johns and also Secretary of Mayo.

There has evidently been some bad feeling in consequence of the

opening of the new Lodge Mayo because at this Meeting Bro. Franklin asked whether it was true that the letter from Mayo alluded to in the last paragraph had not been answered and, if this were true, he wished to resign St. Johns as he was of opinion that the Lodge had been guilty of a want of courtesy. The Worshipful Master accepted Bro. Franklin's resignation and, after some discussion, it was resolved to send a letter to Lodge Mayo. The contents or purport of the letter are not given. Evidently the letter could not have been a satisfactory one for Bro. Franklin again protested that not having been put in the Summons the subject could not be put to the vote. It was therefore resolved that the subject be inserted in the next Summons.

The Worshipful Master ruled that the objection raised by Bro. Franklin at the last Meeting had no good foundation and should not therefore be confirmed. A Resolution however was subsequently passed electing the Worshipful Master and Wardens of "Mayo" as Honorary Members of St. Johns. This unpleasant incident was therefore harmoniously closed.

The news was received of the death of Bro. Agnew, a member of the Lodge and P. M. of Lodge Bangalore. This worthy Brother having died on his way Home, it was resolved to put the Lodge into mourning for a month and to hold a Lodge of sorrow. This was done on the 23rd April. At this ceremony the Rev. Bro. Liston assisted and was afterwards thanked for his help. The brethren from Lodges Mayo and Deccan were also thanked for their attendance.

Owing to the death of the Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, it was resolved to place the Lodge into mourning for 6 months. The death of Bro. Martinaut of Lodges Mayo and St. John was also recorded and as his widow had been left in distressed circumstances it was resolved to open a subscription for her.

Bro. the Rev. C. Smith was invested as Chaplain of the Lodge, and the appearance of the Lodge, draped in mourning, called forth some sympathy on the losses, the Craft generally, and Lodge St. Johns in particular, had recently suffered. Rs. 50 was also sanctioned to the widow of a Bro. Mason who had recently arrived in the Station, but had been taken ill and had died before he could join the Lodge. The sister-Lodges Deccan and Mayo are now regularly represented by one or more of the officers and a very good feeling seems to prevail amongst them.

Owing to some misunderstanding the late Worshipful Master Wilkins had not attended the Lodge to be invested as I. P. M., but at this Meeting he was present and the Worshipful

Master having informed the brethren that the matter had been satisfactorily settled, he was invested as I. P. M. A P. M.'s jewel of the value of £10-10-0 was voted to the Worshipful Master—he being asked to retire from the Lodge when the proposal was made. In addition a piece of plate was subscribed for by the brethren.

Nov. (date omitted). A Lodge of sorrow was held in memory of the late Bro. Knox and the Service was performed by the Chaplain, Bro. C. Smith.

Another death (Bro. Boyle) is recorded and a letter of sympathy ordered to be sent to the widow. This Meeting was Nov. 29. largely attended and out of 42 members present, a majority of 31 re-elected Bro. Sheppard as Worshipful Master.

A very full Meeting for the installation which met in the morning and adjourned until the evening. The Report for the year Dec. 27. was read. The numbers had increased from 44 to 81 members comprising 14 initiations and 23 joinings. There were however 8 resignations and 4 deaths, leaving the actual strength of the Lodge at 69, of whom 6 were absent members. There were 12 Regular and 7 Emergent Meetings and 36 degrees conferred. There were however Rs. 267 outstanding in the Lodge books and Rs. 220 in the Benevolent Fund. The actual amount to the credit of the Lodge is not stated. Rs. 100 were voted from the Benevolent Fund to the Secunderabad Protestant Orphanage and a similar amount to the Catholic Orphanage and also £10-10-0 for purchasing a Life-Governorship in the English Institution. The rule about members rejoining after absence was relaxed, and sickness or urgent private affairs were allowed to count if, after an absence of not more than 2 years, he rejoined within 3 months of his arrival. If he exceeded that period and had not joined any other Lodge in the interval he had to pay a fee of Rs. 7½, but if he had joined another Lodge he was exempted from a rejoining fee for a period of 5 years' absence. This rule has since been altered and there are now no special exemptions as regards rejoining fees. Rs. 100 were granted from Lodge funds towards re-flooring the Church of St. Johns.

A largely-attended Meeting to present the Worshipful Master with his Jewel. The visiting brethren were asked to with Feb. 28. draw, whilst certain letters were read making complaints against P. M. Wilkins and Bro. Lacy. What the complaints were is not stated, but the matter was referred to a Committee.

April 1874. Wor. Bro. Scharlieb, P. D. D. G. Master from Madras, (date omitted.) visited the Lodge and was saluted.

Bro. Wilkins resigned the Lodge; nothing further regarding this incident is entered in the Minutes.

A further sum being required to complete the Mosaic pavement in the Church, it was resolved that the whole cost should be defrayed by the Lodge. It was also resolved that a Christmas treat be given to the orphans.

Oct. 31. Bro. Hills was elected Worshipful Master and Bro. Sheppard, who was proceeding to an appointment at Cannanore, said good-bye to the Lodge.

Nov. 28. Installation night and a very largely-attended Meeting. A proposal to make the Worshipful Master and Wardens of Lodge Dec. 28. Deccan Honorary Members was thrown out, there being one dissident—at which the Worshipful Master expressed his regret and hoped that the brethren concerned would not take offence. During the year the members increased from 69 to 80, but there were 6 resignations and 1 death so that the actual members were 73. The outstanding balances were still large, being Rs. 232 and Rs. 300 for Lodge and Benevolent Funds respectively. In addition to the jewel, a gold watch and chain had been presented to the Worshipful Master.

Lodge Deccan having elected the Worshipful Master and Wardens of St. John's as Honorary Members *pro tem.* the compliment is returned.

Jan. 30. Lodge Morland under the S. C. having been formed, a request was made by Bro. Wilkinson to be allowed to use the Lodge buildings. This proposal was reserved for discussion at the next Meeting and was then disallowed, the use of the building being refused to the Scotch Lodge. The bill for the Church pavement is sent in and amounts to Rs. 357-5-5, the original estimate having been first of all Rs. 100 which was sent, then Rs. 133 which the Lodge said they would pay and now for the increased amount. The Lodge funds being low it was resolved that the bill lie over but the Lodge accepted the liability. A contribution of Rs. 100 was received (in previous Meeting) from the Mark Lodge towards repairs

Mar. 27, 1875. I. P. M. Sheppard, who apparently has not left the Station, is unable to attend owing to the death of his child. A letter of condolence is sent.

An Emergent Meeting of sorrow on account of the death of Bro. Rhenius. The Service was performed by Rev. Bro. May 12. Browne.

Rev. Bro. Browne is leaving the Station and begs that the bill for the Mosaic pavement be settled. The Lodge funds being very low it is resolved to send round a subscription list. May 29. The Meeting is altered from last Saturday to last Wednesday. This is the day which is still kept as the following day (Thursday) is a Garrison holiday and there are no parades.

A Parsee 'Bible' (*Zenda Vesta*) has been presented by Bro. Ratcliffe, and a handsome perfect Ashlar with candidates' cushions by Bro. Nugent for which votes of thanks were recorded. June 24. The Golconda Rose Croix Chapter has been working for the last year (from April 1874) and forwards Rs. 64 as payment for use of the Lodge at Rs. 16 per quarter.

July 28. A Lodge of sorrow in memory of the late Bro. J. W. Ogilvie.

From the Report of the Permanent Committee it appears that the arrears have increased to Rs. 317-12-0, of which Rs. 223 July 31. are due for more than six months. The usual notices are ordered to be sent. The Steward's accounts also showed arrears of Rs. 272-4-0, of which 144 are due for six months and more. Towards the Rs. 246 due for the Mosaic pavement the brethren subscribed Rs. 87-4-1, of which Rs. 45 had been collected. It is recommended that this be borrowed and paid to the Rev. Brother who has in the meantime paid the bill out of his own pocket. Owing to the unsatisfactory condition of the Lodge funds the Committee recommend that no further sums be voted for any purpose whatever until this debt is paid off and there is a balance in hand. Defaulters to the Steward's account were posted at the bar and refreshments refused till their accounts were settled. A separate dinner account appears also to have been kept by the butler. In order to prevent the Lodge from borrowing from the outside world Bro. C. Johnston, who was also a P. M. of Lodge Deccan, suggested that Lodge Deccan be asked to give them a loan of Rs. 200. This however was avoided by sending round a subscription list in the Lodge when a sum of Rs. 261-8-0 was subscribed by the brethren present.

The pecuniary condition of the Lodge was such as to cause considerable anxiety and it would seem as if the members had been too generous in voting away large sums. In the two previous years there had been a large number of accessions to the Lodge, but the money thus derived from Joining fees had been largely spent in various ways. Of late there had been a falling-off of new members, considerable sums had been spent in repairs, and the unexpected heavy bill for the Church pavement was the last straw. The outstandings were very large, and it would seem as if the Lodge had been too indiscriminate in the admission of members. With two other English and one Scotch Lodge working in the same area, the rivalry for members had probably become rather acute.

In order to prevent arrears accruing in the messing account, resolved Aug. 25, 1875. that supper tickets be sold at Rs. 1-2 each and that no brother be allowed to dine who is not provided with a

ticket to be purchased the day before, or else he must pay double.\* The money thus obtained to be supplemented by Rs. 25 from the Lodge funds. A letter was read at this Meeting from the Rev. Bro. Browne acknowledging the receipt of the money due for the Mosaic pavement. A letter was also read from District Grand Lodge, asking the Lodge to send a contribution towards the expenses of a Masonic entertainment it was proposed to give to the Prince of Wales, and it was decided that the Lodge could not afford more than Rs. 50. A sum of Rs. 25 each was sanctioned to two poor widows in distress who do not appear to have been connected with the Fraternity. The Lodge funds being too low it was resolved to raise the money for a P. M. jewel to be presented to the Worshipful Master by private subscription. As usual the Worshipful Master was requested to leave the Lodge whilst this proposal was being discussed. On 27th October it was resolved to send a further sum of Rs. 50 to meet the expenses of the proposed reception of the Most Wor. the Grand Master the Prince of Wales, and it was proposed to send a deputation of officers of the Lodge. A sum of Rs. 50 was also voted to the widow of a Bro. Mullins. Wor. Bro. Sheppard having been deputed to represent St. John's at the installation of Bro. Carrs as Worshipful Master of Lodge Pleiades at Sholapur begged that the money voted for his expenses be spent in the purchase of a banner to be inscribed with the word "Hope."

Wor. Bro. Hills having been re-elected at the previous Meeting should have been installed, but was prevented from attending by the death of his wife. At this Meeting when the Minutes were read over it was proposed by the Acting Worshipful Master that two Resolutions passed at the previous Meeting relating to two of the brethren (Krohn and Harris) be expunged as "unnecessary" and this was done. Similar instances of expunging Resolutions have occurred previously and it is a question whether this is strictly regular. A Resolution having been proposed and carried it would seem that all the Lodge can do is to state whether it has been accurately *recorded*, in which case it must be confirmed. It might afterwards be rescinded by another Resolution, but it seems to the compiler of this history that it cannot properly be expunged. Letter from District Grand Lodge was read acknowledging receipt of Rs. 100, but stating that no Masonic reception would be given on occasion of the Prince's visit, but that the new Grand Master would be happy to see any of the brethren at his installation. The officers for the year were appointed and invested by the Acting Worshipful Master and then the Report for the year was read

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\* It does not appear that this rule was ever carried out. The old trouble is constantly recurring.

from which we find—The year opened with 69 members, 10 of whom were on the absent list. During the year there were 8 initiations and 5 joinings. There were three deaths and 13 resignations, leaving a total of 66, of whom 12 were absent. The funds were in a better condition there being Rs. 319-14-11 in hand. On the other hand, the outstandings had risen to Rs. 417-4-0 besides Rs. 157 for the current month with liabilities amounting to Rs. 609-3-11. Bro. Campbell was the Treasurer during this and the previous years.

At this Meeting an interesting point was raised. Three months before Bro. Morris, the S. W., sent a letter resigning his post. The reasons are not given in the Minutes, but evidently there had been some misunderstanding. The resignation was accepted. At this Meeting a letter was read from the same brother, asking that he might be allowed to withdraw his resignation “as at that time he was labouring under a great mistake.” Bro. Campbell\* and the Worshipful Master proposed that the withdrawal of the letter should be permitted, but a very large majority accepted the amendment of Bro. Colin Johnstone that as the Minutes containing the resignation had been confirmed they could not now be altered and the resignation allowed to be withdrawn.

Lodge Morland, the new Scotch Lodge, having elected the Worshipful Master and Wardens of St. John's as Honorary Members, a letter to this effect was read. It will be remembered that some months back the application of Lodge Morland to be allowed to use the Lodge building for its Meetings had been refused. This therefore was a retort courteous. The usual donations of Rs. 25 each to the two orphanages were given and a further grant of Rs. 50 to the widow of a deceased brother. A donation of Rs. 50 was also sanctioned to a new native orphanage that had been lately opened. A letter was ordered to be sent accepting the Honorary Membership of Lodge Morland. Under the bye-laws an Honorary Member could not be elected unless the ballot was unanimous—one black ball being sufficient to exclude. Now that there were three Lodges at work—besides St. John's, and it had become customary to elect the Worshipful Master and Wardens of the Sister Lodge as Honorary Members, it was proposed to alter this bye-law and make three black balls necessary—so as to avoid

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\* This brother was for some years a very active member. He was for many years Magistrate of the Residency Bazaar and afterwards as General Campbell presided at the Suburban Court. He retired from the Nizam's service in 1896 and was universally respected for his true piety and large-heartedness. His name will frequently be found hereafter especially in connection with Lodge Deccan.





C. Agnew, P.M.



A. R. Pitcher, P.M.



C. A. Battenburgh, P.M.



V. H. W. Davoren, P.M.

the possibility of any awkwardness and, at the same time, to keep within the rules of the Constitution. The bye-law was thereupon amended so as to make an exception in favour of the Principal officers of other Lodges. Bro. Gadsden (Colonel) being about to leave the Station it was decided to ask him to sit for his photograph. At this Meeting Mr. H. Hales was proposed as a candidate for initiation and continued a prominent member of the Lodge until his death in 1902. At this Meeting Bro. E. H. Stone announced his approaching departure, as he was one of the oldest members he was elected an Honorary Member.

District Grand Lodge having sanctioned a pension of Rs. 12 a month to Mr. Mullins, the Lodge was requested to pay  
**April 26.** it and deduct the amount from the quarterly dues. A donation of Rs. 60 was granted to the widow of the late Bro. Hadji Mehala. The question of the outstandings was again raised. Two names were ordered to be struck off (*N.B.*—The usual notices do not appear to have been sent) and notices were ordered to be sent to other defaulters. It is unfortunate that the Minutes seldom record the result of these notices. Apparently it was temporary only, for the outstandings continue to increase from year to year.

**Aug. 16.** A Lodge of sorrow in memory of Bro. Scott.

It being reported that Bro. Burgess belonging to a Bombay Lodge was lying ill at the hospital from injuries received from the  
**Sep. 27.** natives whilst on his way to his Station, it was resolved to send him Rs. 50. It was also decided to give a Ball in honour of the 16th Lancers, which Regiment was shortly leaving the Station, and several of whom were members of the Lodge. An Organist's jewel was also voted to Bro. Hefner for his services. From the proceedings of the next Meeting it appears that the presentation took the form of a Masonic ring and a Set of Studs. Several resignations were announced at this Meeting owing to the Regiment leaving the Station (16th Lancers).

This being the last occasion at which the brethren belonging to the 16th Lancers would be present, the Worshipful  
**Nov. 22.** Master after opening the Lodge handed over the Hiram to the I. P. M., Bro. Sheppard of that Regiment, so that he could once more preside. Wor. Bro. Sheppard performed the ceremony of the 3° and then handed back the Hiram, upon which he was elected an Honorary Member for life and appointed to represent Lodge St. John's in the Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. Campbell, the J. W., was elected Worshipful Master. Bro. Mayne had been elected Treasurer, but declined it as  
**Nov. 29.** he would shortly be leaving the Station. Bro. Myers

who had received the next number of votes was then asked to accept the post, which he did. Rs. 100 voted for a Christmas entertainment to the orphans and Rs. 30 to the native orphans.

INSTALLATION DAY. Lodge met in the morning. A Colour-Sergeant of the 2/16 Regiment and a Drum-Major of the 44th Regiment  
Dec. 27, 1876. were balloted for and in both cases the ballot was foul. Unfortunately the latter was in attendance and had already been prepared by the Tyler. In this way a certain amount of knowledge had been conveyed to the candidate without any obligation of secrecy, but he was told that his name would be brought up again after six months and in the interim was requested not to reveal any part of the preparation. Afterwards in Lodge Bro. Campbell pointed out how painful such an incident was, and suggested that in future any brethren who objected to a candidate should intimate the same to the proposer or to the Worshipful Master before the Meeting so that the name might be withdrawn. It would be well if this suggestion were always acted upon. It is not often that a black-balling occurs and should *never* occur except for good and sufficient reasons. These the objector should be prepared to state, in confidence of course, to the Worshipful Master. As regards withdrawal after preparation, a similar incident occurred about 25 years after this date, this time at Lodge Mayo. A Captain in the Army was a candidate for initiation with at least two others. The ballot proved clear and the compiler was requested to go outside and help in the preparation and introduction of the candidates. When everything was ready and the Tyler was just about to sound an alarm, the Captain was overcome, either by the heat or by excitement and absolutely refused to go on. He removed the H—W—and said that he should faint if he resumed it. Nothing would induce him to go on and so he had to be sent away. He never again appeared for initiation.

After transacting the usual business and performing the 3<sup>o</sup> the Lodge adjourned at 9-30 to breakfast and reassembled in the evening for the Installation ceremony, after which the Annual Report was read. During the year there were 9 joinings and 8 initiations. There were however 23 resignations and 1 death. There were 12 Regular, 1 Emergent Meeting and 1 Lodge of sorrow. The Funds were not in a satisfactory condition, there being only Rs. 132-7-11 in hand and outstanding amounting to Rs. 442. There were liabilities of Rs. 138-15-0 so that there would be a credit balance to the Lodge of Rs. 435-8-0, "provided only outstanding dues are paid up." Before closing, the Worshipful Master alluded to the unpleasant occurrence of the morning and hoped that in future any brother objecting to a candidate would confide in him before the election and, as Worshipful Master, he promised to regard the

confidence as sacred. The Installation ceremony had been performed by Bro. Colin Johnstone who, for some years, has been taking a very prominent part in the affairs of the Lodge.

The Worshipful Master in reporting the death of Bro. Greenhole who had been raised in the Lodge, made a very eloquent speech in which *inter alia* he said that he hoped the lessons the deceased brother had learnt in Lodge had enabled him to meet his end in a fitting manner. After this the Grand Honours were paid to his memory and a letter of condolence ordered to be written to his widow. (N.B.—It may here be mentioned that Bro. Campbell, the Worshipful Master on this occasion, though now a very zealous Mason, some years later when a General, retired from Masonry altogether and took a very active part in the Y. M. C. A.) At this Meeting the Worshipful Master proposed that the use of the banqueting room should be allowed for the Meetings of a religious order of the Holy Standard of which he and two other of the brethren were members. An objection being made to this and supported, the proposal was withdrawn. The Report of the Permanent Committee shows a very unsatisfactory financial condition.

|                 |     |     |     |         |   |    |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|----|
| Balance in hand | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 144 | 7 | 11 |
| Outstandings    | ... | ... | ... | ,, 564  | 0 | 0  |
| Liabilities     | ... | ... | ... | ,, 419  | 0 | 0  |

The names of 12 brethren are reported as being in arrears for over six months and amongst those unfortunately appears that of a very active P. M.

The Worshipful Master stated that a rumour had reached him which he trusted was untrue—that with reference to a certain name that would be proposed for initiation that evening, two of the members had sent the gentleman in question a message that he had better not have his name put up for St. John's as he would probably be black-balled and advising him to join Lodge Morland. The Worshipful Master pointed out that if the gentleman in question was fit for initiation at another Lodge, there could be no objection to him on moral grounds. At the next Regular Meeting after the announcement that the ballot in the case of a Quarter-Master-Sergeant of the 2/16 Regiment was clear, the Worshipful Master congratulated the Lodge on the untruthfulness of the rumour to which he had alluded at the previous Meeting.

The decision of the District Grand Lodge on the following point was read: Two Masons who were only E. A., one of whom had been initiated in St. John's some years previously and the other in a Bengal Lodge, wished to join St. John's and the question referred by the Worshipful Master was whether they could be at once elected as Joining members, or whether they should work their way up

into the other degrees and then be balloted for as joining members. The answer of District Grand Lodge was as follows:—

“In reply to your letter of 26th April I have the honour by desire of the R. W. the D. G. M. to acquaint you that a brother who is only in possession of the 1st degree, cannot on that account be objected to as a Joining member.

“A brother who is only an entered Apprentice is entitled to all the privileges of a Mason (?) and it is not obligatory on him to take the 2nd or 3rd degrees within a given time and he can remain a member of his Mother Lodge or join another without taking these degrees until he wishes to do so; the fee paid by him on his initiation includes his registration as a Mason on the register of the Grand Lodge of England and entitles him to his Grand Lodge Certificate as an Entered Apprentice and also to exchange this for a certificate as a F. C. and a M. M. when he takes these degrees, *vide* Art. 6, page 91, Constitutions, and the possession of this certificate entitles him to Membership with any Lodge, provided he is in all other respects eligible.”

The compiler of his history remarks that he has never yet seen a Grand Lodge Certificate for an E. A., or a F. C. and remarks that in his own case he was made an E. A. and F. C. in March 1865 in Lodge Perfect Unanimity, Madras. He was then ordered upcountry and for many years had no opportunity of attending a Lodge and did not take his M. M. degree until many years later. But although he had paid his E. A. and F. C. fees he never received a Grand Lodge Certificate. He received his M. M. degree in Roumania and then became affiliated in a Scotch Lodge and received his M. M.'s Certificate from the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He has since rejoined the English Constitution to which he has belonged for many years, but never received an English Grand Lodge Certificate for any of the degrees.

During this year (in March) Bro. de Wilton a P. M. had been elected a Joining member. He was a Surgeon-Major of the 29th M. N. I. and became a short time hence the hero of a somewhat dramatic incident. The fact of his having joined is therefore referred to here. The proceedings last mentioned finish Book No. V, although at the end there are several blank pages.

#### Book No. VI.

Forty rupees are voted as a contribution towards sending to England  
 Aug. 29, 1877. a “helpless widow woman with two little children,”  
 and a visiting brother asks to be allowed to add Rs. 10  
 to the amount.

Bro. G. S. Jones, a Lieutenant in the R. A., was proposed to be  
 Sept. 26. balloted although without a Grand Lodge Certificate or  
 a ‘No demand certificate’ upon his taking a solemn

affirmation that he was in full possession of his Masonic privileges. The compiler of this history remembers that a similar indulgence was granted to him in this very Station in the year 1890, but is now inclined to ask whether this indulgence is actually legal. There is much to be said on both sides, but it opens the door for a possible fraud and although he has once benefited by so generous a confidence, he feels inclined to deprecate either this case or his own being taken as a precedent. Bro. Battenberg, an E. A. from Lucknow, was admitted at this Meeting and passed.

Although the Benevolent Funds are very low, a sum of Rs. 30 are  
**Oct. 30.** voted to the widow of a deceased Brother who is living in Bellary in distressed circumstances and with a large family. Bro. Wilkinson (Chief Engineer in the Nizam's D. P. W. and one of the founders of Lodge Morland, S.C.) renewed a proposition made two years previously that the Lodge should be allowed to make use of the St. John's building for its Meetings. After some discussion the proposition was carried. For six months the Lodge, although very reduced in funds, has been paying the widow of a deceased Brother (Conductor Greenhill) an allowance of Rs. 10 monthly. Her circumstances having improved the allowance is now discontinued.

Bro. de Wilton was elected as Worshipful Master for the coming  
**Nov. 27.** year and installed on the 27th December. Rs. 100 from the Benevolent Fund voted to a Christmas treat for the orphans (Garrison), Rs. 50 to the Secunderabad orphanage, Rs. 30 to the R. C. orphanage and Rs. 20 to the S. P. G. native orphanage.

From the Annual Report read on Installation day (27th December) we learn that the year began with 55 members, of whom 22 were on the absent list. During the year there was an addition of 19 members—6 initiations and 13 joinings. There were 12 resignations and one death, leaving 61 on the list, of whom 20 were absent. The cash in hand was Rs. 334-6-5 and the outstandings amounted to Rs. 430. The liabilities amounted to Rs. 296-4-3. This balance-sheet shows a considerable improvement, but the outstandings are still very heavy. The Benevolent Fund had Rs. 204-6-11 to its credit. Wor. Bro. Campbell deserves credit for the way in which he has worked the Lodge up during his year of office. The Installation was again performed by Wor. Bro. Colin Johnstone.

Wor. Bro. de Wilton in the Chair. A Jewel was voted to Wor. Bro. Campbell for his services, which at first he declined, asking  
**Jan. 30, 1878.** that the money may be given to a charity, but on being told that a sum would be given in charity, in addition to the Jewel, he consented to receive it.

(N.B.—The party concerned in this proposal appears to have been

allowed to remain in Lodge whilst the subject was under discussion. This is evidently an undesirable custom and is against the usual practice of the Lodge.)

Bro. Dobbs (A. F.) is again proposed as a joining Member. During Feb. 27, 1878. the last five or six years this Brother's name is constantly recurring as joining, resigning and re-joining. He was then attached to the Residency Staff and was Railway Magistrate, a Major in the Staff Corps. The old question of arrears again comes up and the Permanent Committee recommend the stereotyped proposal that the Bye-laws be put in force. Evidently the Bye-laws, when enforced, are not capable of bringing in the arrears. This is in reality the curse of all Indian Lodges. The credit system which has, to a certain extent, died out in private business still remains in use amongst the brethren all over India. Natural affection for our brethren prevents us from inflicting the extreme penalty of exclusion and so things go from bad to worse. It would be wise to introduce in every Lodge a system of cash payments before the Lodge opens. With a fluctuating population as there must be in India, there are a hundred difficulties in the way of collecting arrears from brethren who are absent. It is by no means always their fault, but although the old proverb may be true that "Absence lends enchantment to the view" there can be no doubt that absence lends also to forgetfulness. The history of Lodge St. John's shows how admirably it always responds to a call of charity. The charity is catholic, and extends to all creeds, to Masons and non-Masons, as soon as a case of distress is recognized. These arrears are generally brought about by forgetfulness. To the individual the small item seems nothing; but as there may possibly be many individuals who think the same, the result may be that a Lodge will have considerable assets on paper and, at the same time, be in debt, as we have seen in the case of St. John's.

As far as Steward's accounts are concerned in England the rule is "Cash." If we could only manage to introduce a rule of the same kind in India, the Craft would benefit.

An additional room was added to the building at a cost of Rs. 465. 1878. Everything seems to have been going on well until we come to the following inexplicable incident.

After 11 entries of the usual routine work, the following occurs:— May 29. "Wor. Bro. Campbell tendered an apology for the Worshipful Master leaving the Lodge." After this there is an entry to the effect that the Lodge closed in peace and harmony at 9-45. Considering that no degrees were given that evening and merely

ordinary routine business performed, this seems to be a very late hour. At the next Meeting on 24th June which was largely attended (30 present), the following entry occurs :—

(1) The Lodge was opened at 7 P.M. by the Worshipful Master in the following manner: “By the authority vested in me, as Worshipful Master of this Lodge and therefore the humble representative of King S—, I declare this Lodge open.” The Minutes and Summons were then read and two ballots were taken. After which the Worshipful Master then rose and said :—“Brethren, I hold in my hand a letter which I very deeply regret certain of the P. M’s of this Lodge thought proper to send to me. Before I read this letter I wish to ask those members whether they will withdraw it.” Wor. Bros. Campbell and Hills declined to withdraw it. The visitors were then requested to leave the Lodge. The P. M’s then present requested to leave the Lodge and obtained permission stating unanimously that they would report the Worshipful Master to Grand Lodge. *Worshipful Master*: Brethren, our Past Masters having withdrawn I shall read this letter to the Lodge and I shall request that each member will vote ‘Yes’ or ‘No,’ whether he agrees with this letter or not. (N.B.—The letter is not given.) Bro. Winsfield then requested to know how many Past Masters had signed the letter and the Worshipful Master replied that eight had signed it. Bros. Winsfield and Donaldson objected to the letter being read unless the P. M’s were present. The Worshipful Master then closed the Lodge in the same manner as in opening *and placed the Lodge in abeyance*. Then occurs a note: “These proceedings, by order of Deputy District Grand Master-in-Charge, are null and void, *vide* letter of 29th August entered in Minutes of 2nd September.

It seems also that after putting the Lodge in abeyance the Worshipful Master took away the Charter. In spite of the Lodge being in abeyance the usual Meeting was held in the following month (28th August). A letter appears to have been sent to the Grand Lodge by the P. M’s together with the Minute Book. At this Meeting the Worshipful Master was not present nor does his name ever occur again as being present. No work was done, but the Meeting lasted for  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hours, so that there must have been considerable discussion.

An Emergent Meeting was called for the purpose of reading the  
 Sept. 2.      reply from Grand Lodge. After passing and raising certain  
                  brethren, the letter was read :—

TO THE SENIOR WARDEN-IN-CHARGE.

DEAR SIR & BRO.,

“I beg to return by this day’s book-post the Minute Book of your Lodge and with reference to the proceedings thereof on the 24th June

last, I am desired to inform you that the legitimate ceremonies to be followed in opening and closing a Lodge cannot, under any circumstances, be dispensed with. Every Brother must assist thereat and any deviation from the established mode is by Article 19, p. 67, Constitutions, highly improper and cannot be countenanced. The mode adopted by Wor. Bro. de Wilton in opening and closing the Lodge in question as appears from the Minute Book is therefore deserving of great reprehension, while his appeal to the brethren against the Past Masters with reference to their letter to him of 22nd June is deeply to be deplored.

His action in placing the Lodge in abeyance was both unjustifiable and illegal and I am directed by the Deputy District Grand Master-in-Charge to inform you that the same is to be considered null and void.

You will be good enough to cause this letter to be read in open Lodge and a copy thereof to be entered in the proceedings of the next Regular Meeting, or of a Meeting specially summoned for the purpose as you may find more convenient."

(Sd.) J. T. GREATOREX,

*D. G. Secretary.*

The incident requires no comment, the sequel can be told in a few words. The Worshipful Master de Wilton was excluded from Masonic privileges, but having so far submitted himself as to return the Charter of which he had taken possession, the penalty of exclusion was withdrawn (Minutes of 29th January, 1879). Shortly afterwards we come across an entry that the Worshipful Master concerned had passed from the sublunary to a Higher Lodge and so the episode ends.

There is a good deal of mystery about the details of this occurrence. There is at present only one man surviving who was present as a junior officer of the Lodge when the letter from the District Grand Lodge was read out, but who has told the compiler that he can remember nothing whatsoever of the occurrence. Such are the difficulties of the historian; but it is perhaps as well that a memory should be defective and a sponge be passed over the slate.

During the rest of the Masonic year the name of the P. M., Wor. Bro.

**Sept. 25.** Campbell, appears as ruling the Lodge and on the above date we find that Bro. Meer Yusoof Ali was passed to the 2nd degree, the ceremony being performed by Bro. Colin Johnstone in *Urdu*.

Two brethren having appeared to be raised to the 3rd degree, one of them fainted and had to be passed out, the rest of the ceremony being put off for some other day. At the election

**Nov. 27.**





E. Sheppard, P.M.



J. N. Hills, P.M.



A. H. E. Campbell, P.M.



J. Sausman, P.M.

for Master at this Meeting a letter was read from Wor. Bro. Ashton Mayne regarding the omission of his name as being eligible for the Chair, he being a P. M. of a Scotch Lodge. The fact of having filled a Scotch chair does not however qualify a Brother for an English chair. This does not appear to be generally known. The reason is that under the English Constitution a Brother must have passed one of the Warden's chair in order to become eligible for the Eastern chair. This is not the case under the Scotch Constitution and any M. M. can be elected as Worshipful Master.

Bro. Saussman and Bro. Campbell were elected Worshipful Master and Treasurer respectively. Rs. 150 were voted for the annual feast to the orphans.

Installation Night.—Rs. 100 was voted as relief to the widow of a deceased Brother who had died at Tonghoo, and the  
 Dec. 27, remaining portion of the 3rd degree was gone through with the Brother who had fainted at the previous Meeting.

It was resolved to give a Masonic Ball, and a Committee was appointed to manage it. The Ball was eventually given and, as will be seen hereafter, gave rise to considerable discussion and trouble.

An Emergent Meeting was held for the purpose of laying the  
 Jan. 15, 1879. foundation stone of the Albert Reading Room and Library.

For this purpose a combined Lodge was formed of the representatives of the different Lodges present. The Colonel Commanding the 12th Lancers gave, and the Colonel Commanding the 21st Fusiliers refused permission to the brethren who belonged to the respective Regiments to appear. A procession was formed and marched from the Lodge, headed by a band. The various office-bearers were selected from the representatives of the different Lodges present.

The following was the order :—

Band,  
 Tyler with drawn Sword,  
 Architect with Plans,  
 Two Brethren with Ewers of Wine and Oil,  
 Superintendent of Works with Plate,  
 Deacons with Wands,  
 Two Brethren with Globes,  
 Lodge Standard carried by two Brethren,  
 Registrar with Bag,  
 Treasurer with Phial containing Coins,

Junior Warden with Column and Plumb,  
 Banners of Hope and Charity,  
 Senior Warden with Column and Level,  
 Chaplain with S. L. on Cushion,  
 Lodge Standard,  
 Sword Bearer,  
 Worshipful Master,  
 Stewards.

“On arrival at the site of the intended building the Band played ‘God bless the Prince of Wales’.”

“Wor. Bro. Mayne and Cantonment Magistrate addressed the public and explained how it came about that the institution, whose foundation stone was about to be laid received its name, and how it came to pass that the stone was laid with Masonic ceremonial.

“The proceedings were then commenced with prayer and the Worshipful Master laid the stone, inserting the phial containing coins, etc., and applying the plumb level and square to test the correctness of the stone.

“The corn, wine and oil were poured over the stone by the Worshipful Master.

“The Band played ‘God save the Queen.’

“The procession headed by the Band returned to Lodge and there being no further business before the Lodge, it was closed with prayer in peace and harmony at 6 P.M.”

This seems to have been one of the most unfortunate years in the history of the Lodge. At the first Meeting the Worshipful  
 1879. Master opened the proceedings by making some remarks about the ballot and suggesting that if any member objected to a proposed candidate or joining member he should first of all state the objection to the Worshipful Master so as to allow him to suggest the withdrawal of the name. The members then proceed to ballot for a Bro. S—and in spite of what the Worshipful Master had said the ballot proved foul. Upon which the Worshipful Master said that he should withdraw the name of the candidate he had proposed rather than subject him to the ballot. At this Meeting a letter was read from the District Grand Secretary notifying that the suspension of Masonic privileges imposed upon Wor. Bro. de Wilton had been removed in consequence of his having returned the Lodge Charter. Resignations of four brethren were received which the Worshipful Master said was due to the blackballing of a candidate in the previous November Meeting and again

exhorted the brethren not to adopt this course without some potent reason. From the Annual Report it appears that the cash in hand was ... .. Rs. 379 4 4

Balance of Benevolent Fund ... .. „ 474 6 11

Outstandings, ... .. „ 922 0 0

Liabilities ... .. „ 251 11 0

During the year there had been 15 initiations, 10 joinings; 13 resignations and 2 deaths. There were 75 members on the roll on 1st January, 1879, and there had been 11 Regular and 6 Emergent Meetings. Votes of thanks were passed to the brethren who had managed the Foundation-stone ceremony and the Orphanage fête, both of which had been successful. The subject of the proposed Ball was again under discussion and it was resolved to ask for a dispensation to appear in Masonic dress; which, it was suggested, should be worn up to 12 midnight.

A discussion took place regarding whether a Brother to be admitted as a serving Brother, should pay a joining fee and it was resolved to refer the question to District Grand Lodge. **Feb. 26.** The ballot for these proposed candidates again proved foul and after some remarks from Bro. Campbell was held a second time with the same result. Two were blackballed and one accepted. After this three of the brethren present asked for permission to retire.

A proposition was brought forward at this Meeting that in future the bar should be closed whilst the Lodge was working, and that it should not be opened except on Lodge nights. It appears that hitherto brethren had been allowed to call in for refreshments at any time. This proposal was brought forward by Bro. Campbell and seconded by the Worshipful Master because the Lodge was getting a bad name and had been spoken of as a Public House. The proposals were negatived.

The decision of the District Grand Lodge regarding a joining fee for a serving Brother was read. It was to the effect that the Lodge might remit the fee if it chose, but a “no demand” certificate from his last Lodge should be produced. It was resolved to give a monthly subscription of Rs. 10 to the Orphanage. **March 26.** The Report of the Committee on arrears was read. 6 brethren were in arrears for three months and 18 for six months. It was recommended that nine brethren owing Rs. 112 be written to and that ten owing Rs. 373 be reported to District Grand Lodge (one of these names was that of the Past Worshipful Master of the previous year, how he had taken away the Charter, and from a note attached to the last we learn that his name need not be reported as he had since deceased.) Doubts having arisen whether some of the brethren reported had not retired from the Lodge, it was resolved to send a registered letter to each of them.

At this Meeting it was announced that Wor. Bro. Aubrey Saunders, a former P. M. of the Lodge, had been elected as District Grand Master and it was resolved to send him a letter of congratulation. It was resolved to present a small testimonial of jewelry to Bro. Myers who was leaving the Station and the Lodge. It was also proposed that the three English Lodges working in the Station should combine and give an entertainment to the District Grand Master of Bombay who was expected to visit the station in the following month.

The District Grand Master of Bombay, Rt. Wor. Bro. Tyrrell-Leith, was received and saluted at the usual Meeting. The joint entertainment appears to have fallen through. April 30. Four resignations were read and Wor. Bro. Campbell asked to be placed on the absent list and to resign the office of Treasurer. The District Grand Master of Bombay was elected an Honorary Member of Lodge St. John.

July 30. The following letter from the D. G. S.:—

“I have placed your letter, dated 16th June, 1879, before the R. W. the District Grand Master and have been desired to acquaint you that he is of opinion that the Worshipful Master would be justified in withholding a ‘no demand’ certificate until all dues including those owing to the Steward’s fund are paid.

“At the same time I am to state that such arrangements should be made as will preclude brethren from becoming indebted to the Steward’s fund, beyond a limited amount and a limited period. Each case being disposed of by the Lodge when payment is not made on the expiration of the period fixed for settlement.”

The matter of the expenses of the Ball held in the previous February came on for discussion. The account was still unsettled, and this subject crops up again frequently in the following Meetings. Sept. 20.

The question of the arrears was again raised and the Worshipful Master asked the Secretary to read the names. Sixteen names were read, amongst which was that of the Worshipful Master himself, who explained that he kept a running account with the Lodge and if it were squared it would probably be found that the Lodge owed him money. Another of the names read was that of a Brother who had only just returned from England after a four months’ absence. Upon this the Worshipful Master remarked that “he thought too much fuss had been made about dues and arrears during the past two years, and wished that his remarks be entered as a protest against the importance that had been made lately of neglect of Oct. 29.

payment of dues." Upon this Wor. Bro. Colin Johnstone said that if the Worshipful Master did not withdraw his remarks he should consider it his duty as a Grand Lodge Officer to report them to District Grand Lodge. This led to a somewhat heated discussion. At the time Bro. C. Johnstone was acting as S. W. Bro. Johnstone asked for a copy of the Minutes so that he might forward them to District Grand Lodge. As however he declined to put the proposal as a Resolution, the Worshipful Master refused to give him a copy.

In the paragraph relating to the closing of the Lodge we read that it was closed with prayer, but the usual word "harmony" is omitted.

Bro. Colin Johnstone was elected Worshipful Master and was installed at the Regular Meeting in December. In  
 Nov. 26. addressing the Lodge afterwards the Worshipful Master spoke about the ballot and said that it "was a Mason's greatest privilege, and he hoped that the Brethren would not allow spite, or any other petty feeling to guide their actions in using the ballot, but if any Brother after using the Black ball could lay his head on his pillow and feel that his conscience told him that he had done right, no blame could attach to him for the use to which he had put his privilege.

The Worshipful Master was unable to be present owing to ill-health and the S. W. accordingly asked the I. P. M. (Saussman)  
 Jany. 28, 1880. to take the Chair. This he did, but said that he did not think it would be right to perform the ceremonies put down in the Summons or to discuss the Annual Report and therefore only the ordinary routine business of passing the Minutes and of ballot. At the following Meeting (25th February) the Worshipful Master found fault with the I. P. M. for not having conducted the ceremonies. At this Meeting a letter was read from a Brother asking to be put on the absent list although he continued to reside in Secunderabad. The request was not granted. The wife of Bro. D—who had died in Multan wrote a letter asking for assistance and a sum of Rs. 100 was ordered to be sent to her.

From the Annual Report we find the state of the Lodge to be as follows:—

|                     |        |           |     |    |    |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|-----|----|----|
| Balance in hand     | ...    | H. S. Rs. | 409 | 14 | 3  |
| Fund of Benevolence | ...    | " "       | 209 | 6  | 11 |
| Outstandings        | ... .. | " "       | 684 | 0  | 0  |

During the year there were 16 resignations and only 2 joinings. The number were therefore reduced to 56, of whom 42 were resident and 13 non-resident.

The Steward's accounts showed outstandings of Rs. 679-5-10 and

liabilities of Rs. 568-4-8 with only Rs. 4-12-2 in hand and stock worth Rs. 135-5-9.

In answer to circulars sent by registered post several of the absent brethren sent their dues. One from Bangalore congratulates the Lodge on its finances being in so satisfactory a

**March 31.** condition as to warrant paying for a registered letter. The President of the Ball Committee reported that there were still Rs. 600 due and it was resolved to pay Rs. 25 a month towards the liquidation. A sum of Rs. 250 was also sanctioned from Lodge funds. At this Meeting the Worshipful Master delivered a lecture on "What is Freemasonry." He also informed the Lodge that P. M. Bro. Campbell had been appointed District G. S. W. and himself D. G. S. D. A Bye-law had been passed some time previously that the names of brethren in arrears for supplies should be hung up at the bar and it was resolved that this law be strictly enforced, further supplies being withheld until the arrears had been paid, also a Bye-law allowing a Brother to rejoin after absence on payment of Rs. 7-8-0 only if provided during his absence he had been a member of some other Lodge. At this Meeting Bro. Col. Gadsden, a former P. M., was announced as a rejoining member.

A letter was read from District Grand Lodge commenting on the financial position of the Lodge as "not very satisfactory," especially the large amount of Rs. 468-11-2 due for refreshments. "No Lodge can be in a healthy state with such an item in its balance-sheet." It will be remembered that in the previous year the remark of the then Worshipful Master that he thought too much "fuss" had been made about outstandings had brought forth a somewhat angry protest from the present Worshipful Master who has since been in correspondence with the District Grand Lodge on the subject. A letter was also read from District Grand Lodge regarding the use of rituals in Lodge and the brethren were informed "that there is no recognized Ritual of Freemasonry and that the use of such books in open Lodge is a very grave masonic offence and utterly opposed to the principles of the Order." This warning applies with equal force to the present day and it would be well if all Worshipful Masters were to strictly prohibit the use of rituals in Lodge. If a Brother accepts office it is his duty to learn his work. Nothing so much deprives a ceremony of its dignity and solemnity as the use of a ritual. In instance an illustration of this occurred in the experience of the writer, when Worshipful Master of a Lodge he had occasion to initiate a new Brother. After the Lodge had adjourned the Brother just admitted said privately: "Why in your address to me did you make a point of dwelling upon my duties, etc.?" My reply was: "You are paying me

the best compliment possible, what I said to you is laid down to be said to all candidates and not to you especially, though I am glad that you thought the address applicable." If the address had been read from a book as is often the case, this impression could not have been formed on the candidate's mind.

The Report of the District Grand Lodge was read *in extenso* and the I. P. M. who considered that it reflected somewhat upon him asked that the visitors be requested to retire as he wished to make some remarks. This the Worshipful Master refused to do "as the visitors were amenable to the Bye-laws of the Lodge while visiting it and he saw no reason for asking invited guests to withdraw." The I. P. M. then alluded to the censure passed by District Grand Lodge and complained that during his year of office instead of meeting with cordial support he had met with opposition. "At his first Meeting there were 4, 5 or 6 resignations, at the second Meeting candidates were black-balled, which he took as personal." He remarked that it was unusual for new Worshipful Master to report on a retiring one and felt that the censure had been undeserved. The arrears were not larger than they had been before and the number of entrants had been the same as in the previous year. He hoped that a representation would be made to Grand Lodge with a view to the censure being withdrawn. This was seconded, upon which Wor. Bro. Campbell rose to speak, but the seconder objected to his speaking as the Brother was on the absent list. Bro. Campbell then asked to be allowed to retire and was passed out. The seconder then alluded to the opposition the late Worshipful Master had met with, especially in the matter of black-balling. The Worshipful Master's Report was then read and with the explanations offered it would seem that District Grand Lodge's censure had been passed on insufficient grounds.

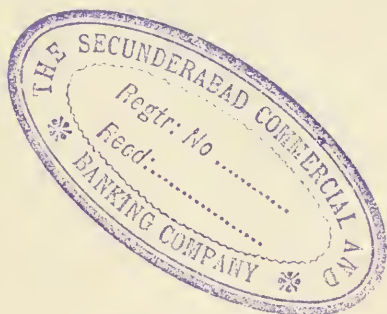
A Brother in distress applied for relief but the Worshipful Master informed the Lodge that he was not deserving of assistance.  
**July 28.** He had been convicted and imprisoned for a criminal offence and he intended reporting the case to Grand Lodge. Rs. 30 was sanctioned to the widow of a deceased Mahomedan brother.

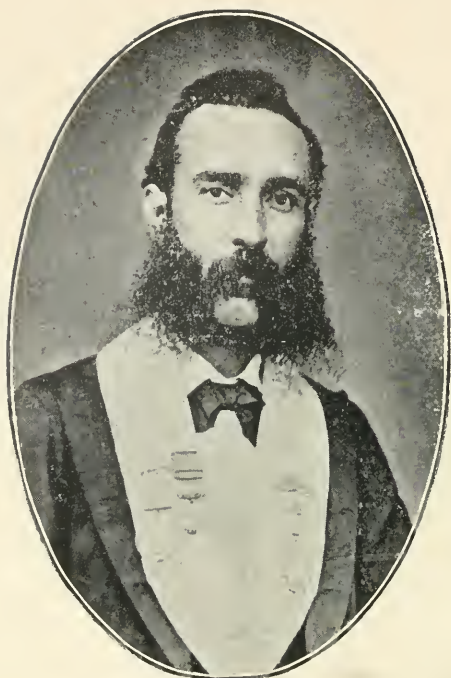
Wor. Bro. Gadsden asked why the quarterly audit of the Permanent Committee had not been read or entered in the Summons  
**Aug. 25.** for the last 6 months. The Worshipful Master said that he thought Bro. Gadsden was not justified in alluding to what had or had not taken place previous to his rejoining the Lodge. Bro. Gadsden pointed out that he had been made an Honorary Member for life. A lively discussion followed with several interruptions. Bro. Gadsden wishing to reply, the Worshipful Master would not hear him unless any Resolution he wished to make had previously appeared in the Summons.

"W. B. Gadsden then asked permission to retire, which the Worshipful Master granted. W. B. Gadsden was leaving the Lodge in a hurry when the Worshipful Master reminded him that he had not saluted the Chair which Bro. Gadsden at that time near the door immediately did and then retired." The ruling of the Worshipful Master in this matter would seem to have been somewhat arbitrary. There seems to be no Bye-law prohibiting a discussion on a matter relating to the affairs of the Lodge. The Bye-law refers to the necessity of giving notice of a *motion* before it can be discussed and put to the vote. In this case Wor. Bro. Gadsden might have been allowed to speak and give notice of the motion he would bring forward at the next Meeting. The Worshipful Master's ruling, if carried to a logical conclusion, would prevent anyone in Lodge speaking on any subject not entered in the Summons, say, for instance, proposing the name of a candidate, or a resignation, or of any incident. The exact words of the ruling after Bro. Gadsden had left were :

"The Worshipful Master then informed the brethren that in future no proposition would be heard in Lodge or discussion brought on unless the same was tendered in writing to the Secretary as provided for in the Bye-laws, and he also informed the brethren that the accounts of the Lodge were always available for inspection and if any Bro. would like any part now read in Lodge, it should be done."

Several interesting points occurred at this Meeting. In the first place the Worshipful Master was absent and the S. W. **Nov. 24.** in charge of the Lodge appears to have taken the Chair although the I. P. M. was present. This I take to be irregular. In the absence of the Worshipful Master, the S. W. is of course in charge of the Lodge, but for routine purposes only, such as convening the Meeting, meeting the necessary payments, signing the Minutes, answering correspondence, arranging for refreshments. He is not qualified to sit in the Worshipful Master's chair and should there be no P. M. present he can only occupy a chair *beneath* that of the Worshipful Master. If a P. M. is present, he should occupy the Eastern Chair and confer any degree that may be required. A Warden is not qualified to confer all the degrees in Craft Masonry and therefore cannot be qualified to occupy the Eastern Chair, although for business purposes he may be in *charge* of the Lodge. On this occasion the S. W. not only presided in the Eastern Chair, but also initiated a candidate although this was objected to by the Brother who was put in to act as S. W. The S. W., though in *charge* of the Lodge, cannot be anything more than a Warden. He is not a representative of K. S. and cannot therefore perform certain duties which devolve upon K. S's representative. This a P. M. always is,





C. H. Johnston, P.M.



J. Carrs, P.M.



H. G. Hales, P.M.



C. B. Little, P.M.

and the appointment of an I. P. M. would seem to be a work of supererogation if he is not to preside in the Lodge in the absence of the Worshipful Master. Under Article 141 of the Constitutions, it is distinctly laid down that a Warden in charge *cannot* confer a degree, but possibly this rule was not so clear when this incident occurred. On this occasion after the ceremony had been performed a Brother brought to notice that an important part regarding the C x x d had been omitted. The omission was then supplied after an apology from the S. W. officiating in the chair.

The next business was the election of a Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. There were 16 brethren present. Seven votes were recorded for the S. W. in the chair; seven for an absent Worshipful Brother (General Campbell) and one vote each for two other brethren. Under such circumstances the presiding Brother had the right of a casting vote and should exercise that right. This however was clearly not desirable and the S. W. in charge asked for another election when Wor. Bro. Campbell was elected by eleven votes to five. The next point raised was that one of the brethren present had voted whilst his name was on the absent list. In the discussion that followed it transpired that more than 6 months previously this Brother had stated that he would be absent for 6 months, had paid his absentee allowance in advance for that period, and had now appeared in Lodge without giving previous notice of being put on the Resident list. The Lodge ruled, and I think rightly, that the very fact of his re-appearance in Lodge made him liable for a Resident's subscription and therefore entitled him to vote.

At this Meeting Mr. J. F. Fiddian of the Madras Civil Service was proposed as a candidate. Strange to say that this is the first record of an Indian Civil Servant being proposed as a candidate for any Masonic Lodge in Secunderabad or Hyderabad. The only members of the Civil Service in Hyderabad are, as a rule, those connected with the Residency and it sometimes happens that these are Military officers. It does not appear that any Resident has ever belonged to a Secunderabad or Hyderabad Lodge; and as far as he has yet been able to ascertain the writer is the only other member of the Civil Service who has figured in Hyderabad Masonry, and that after his retirement from active service.

An Emergent Meeting to discuss the responsibility of the various  
Masonic Institutions using the building for liquor bills.  
Dec. 6.

From the earliest times this seems to have been a great fault in Masonic administration in Secunderabad. There was no co-operation. Each Lodge or Chapter worked on "its own." All made use of the building and the tradesmen put down all bills to St. Johns. Sometimes they were adjusted and sometimes not. On this occasion a

bill for Rs. 500 had been sent in to St. Johns, besides an old balance of Rs. 270 on account of the unfortunate Ball of two years before. It was found that a large amount of the big bill was due by the other Lodges, but as regards the Ball bill it was rightly held that the function having been held under the auspices of St. Johns, the Lodge was bound in honour to pay. A proposal that members attending the Installation banquet should pay in advance had been thrown out at the previous Meeting owing to a deficient explanation of the S. W. presiding and therefore could not be re-entertained; but it was resolved that a strong recommendation should be made in the Summons that each member should bring his money with him. I think that there is no need for an apology in again laying stress upon the fact that this matter of payment for refreshments is the stumbling block of almost every Masonic Lodge in India. If only payment in advance were made compulsory, the various institutions would be relieved from an enormous amount of worry and responsibility. Sudden changes are so frequent that with the very best intentions on the part of brethren, bad debts are liable to accumulate. A rule of this kind would also, if *strictly enforced*, regardless of individuals and their social position tend to make the Lodges more select, and raise the whole tone of the Craft. Another lesson would seem to be that wherever there are several Masonic Institutions working in one Station they should co-operate and work together under a Central Committee. In a combination of this kind there would be strength. When each institution works for "its own" there must be weakness, and Masonry suffers.

It was resolved to pay Rs. 100 for a Life Membership on behalf of the Lodge in the Masonic Institute. General Campbell, who had been elected at the previous Meeting, was installed in the chair.

Dec. 27. Mr. Fiddian was initiated at an Emergent Meeting held for the purpose.

Jan. 3, 1881. Resolved, that a list of the defaulting brethren and those in arrears be read at each Meeting, so as to enforce the Bye-law regarding voting. A Lieut. Sonell of the Hyderabad Contingent being about to be initiated the Worshipful Master courteously vacated the chair in order to allow the ceremony to be conducted by the candidate's brother, Wor. Bro. Sonell, a P. M. from the Punjaub and a visitor on the occasion.

Jan. 26. An Emergent Lodge of sorrow for the funeral of the late Bro. Colire, after which the usual Service was conducted in the Lodge, a procession having been formed to the cemetery.

Jan. 31.

Wor. Bro. Campbell announced that he had been also elected  
 Feb. 23. Worshipful Master of Lodge Deccan and had referred  
 to District Grand Lodge the question whether he could  
 occupy the chairs of two Lodges at the same time.

Amongst others Bro. Ragoonath Persad was elected a joining  
 member. This worthy Brother has up to the time of  
 March 30. writing taken a prominent part in Masonry in Hyderabad  
 and is now a Judge in H. H. the Nizam's High Court. A report of the  
 condition of the Lodge was read at this Meeting, after a lapse of several  
 years from which it appears that on 31st December, 1879, there were 51  
 members. There were 16 resignations during the year, 7 joining  
 members and 2 initiations, leaving 44 members on the roll on the 31st  
 December, 1880, of whom 9 were on the absent list, one a serving Bro. and  
 34 full due members. A Lodge of Instruction had been opened, but had  
 fallen through owing to insufficient attendance. The financial condition  
 was as follows :—

|                        |     |     |     |         |    |   |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|----|---|
| Cash balance           | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 109 | 0  | 0 |
| Due by other Lodges... | ... | ... | ... | „ 80    | 0  | 0 |
| Outstandings           | ... | ... | ... | „ 350   | 0  | 0 |
|                        |     |     | ... | Rs. 539 | 0  | 0 |
| Liabilities            | ... | ... | ... | „ 32    | 11 | 6 |
| Credit                 | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 506 | 5  | 4 |

During the year Rs. 240 had been paid from the Fund of Benevolence  
 in the shape of relief to distressed Masons and Rs. 175 in charity, leaving  
 a balance credit of Rs. 42-6-4.

A Brother was found in the Lodge without an apron. He was  
 April 27. ordered to retire and clothe himself and the Tyler was  
 reprimanded for allowing him to enter without proper  
 clothing. A Brother who had been convicted of a criminal offence  
 applied for relief and for a Grand Lodge Certificate. Both requests were  
 refused as it was ascertained that he was not in actual distress, and his  
 conviction rendered him liable to expulsion from the Craft.

A P. M. Jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston, who had  
 July 27. for so many years taken a leading part in the Lodge,  
 especially as Installing Master.

An Emergent Meeting for the purpose of welcoming the District  
 Grand Master in which Lodges Mayo and Deccan joined.  
 Oct. 19. This was the first time the District Grand Master had  
 ever visited Hyderabad and it is noteworthy that the District Grand  
 Master (R. W. Bro. Saunders) had previously been a Worshipful  
 Master of St. Johns. The Meeting was an especially cordial one  
 and was very well attended by members and visiting brethren. The

speeches made occupy many pages of the Minutes, but are too lengthy to be reproduced.

Bro. Saunders (no connection of the District Grand Master) was elected Worshipful Master for the coming year with  
**Nov. 30.** Wor. Bro. Carrs, as Treasurer. An application was received from Lodge Mayo to be allowed to work in the St. John's building. Hitherto this Lodge had worked in Trimulgherry about two miles distant near the barracks of the European Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery barracks. The Lodge had in fact been founded originally so as to suit the convenience of the military brethren, but they had never been able to build a Lodge of their own. The only question was whether the District Grand Lodge would not be of opinion that if the Lodge worked in Secunderabad it would be advisable to amalgamate with St. Johns, instead of having two Lodges working in the same place. No objection however was raised and the change was eventually sanctioned. There is plenty of room for two Lodges in the large Cantonments of Secunderabad and Trimulgherry, and the special feature of Lodge Mayo has always been its military character. The military element naturally predominates in both Lodges, but in St. Johns, especially of later years, there has always been a large number of civilians; although originally it had been almost exclusively a military Lodge.

It was resolved at this Meeting to apply to the Madras Masonic Institution to admit an orphan of a deceased Mason (Bro. Price) on its rolls.

Installation of Wor. Bro. Saunders, who however announced that  
**Dec. 27.** probably his Battery would be shortly moved and although he was trying to be allowed to remain he might possibly have to leave also. As a matter of fact this was the only Meeting that the Worshipful Master attended as he was transferred before the next Regular Meeting took place.

Wor. Bro. Campbell, the I. P. M., presided and in fact continued to  
**Jan. 25, 1882.** preside for the rest of the year. In addition to the Lodge subscription of Rs. 160 to the Madras Masonic Institution Wor. Bro. Campbell purchased for the Lodge a Life-Governorship in the Institution for Rs. 100 for which he was duly thanked.

From the Permanent Committee's Report we find the condition of the Lodge to have been

|                  |                          |     |     |         |     |     |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| <b>March 29.</b> | Cash in hand             | ... | ... | Rs. 305 | 7   | 2   |
|                  | Fees due                 | ... | ... | "       | 377 | 0 0 |
|                  | Rent due by other Lodges | ... | ... | "       | 108 | 8 0 |
|                  |                          |     |     | Rs. 790 | 7   | 2   |
|                  | Due to Grand Lodge       | ... | ... | "       | 7   | 8 0 |
|                  | Balance credit           | ... | ... | Rs. 782 | 15  | 2   |

*Benevolent Fund.*

|                |               |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Disbursed      | ...           | ... | Rs. | 118 | 8   | 0   |
| „              | for Orphanage | ... | „   | 120 | 0   | 0   |
|                |               |     |     | Rs. | 238 | 0 0 |
|                |               |     |     |     |     |     |
| Balance credit | ...           | Rs. | 178 | 6   | 11  |     |

The Stewards' account was as follows:—

|                            |     |             |     |     |     |      |
|----------------------------|-----|-------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Cash                       | ... | ...         | Rs. | 53  | 12  | 10   |
| Stock                      | ... | ...         | „   | 88  | 7   | 4    |
| Due by Members, St. Johns. | „   | „           | 142 | 8   | 11  |      |
| „                          | „   | Keystone    | „   | 95  | 14  | 5    |
| „                          | „   | Preceptory, | „   | 3   | 0   | 6    |
|                            |     |             |     | Rs. | 383 | 12 0 |
|                            |     |             |     |     |     |      |
| Due to Shop                | ... | ...         | Rs. | 204 | 8   | 9    |
|                            |     |             |     |     |     |      |
| Balance credit             | ... | Rs.         | 179 | 3   | 3   |      |

As regards members, the year commenced with 35 full and 8 absent members. During the year there had been 11 joining members and 5 initiations, but there had been 21 resignations so that there were left on the rolls 38 members, of whom 11 were absent and 1 a serving Brother. These resignations had been largely caused by the departure of the regiment and for some time to come St. John's roll was a small one and her funds suffered accordingly. When the new regiment arrived Mayo seems to have received most recruits. These fluctuations are of common occurrence in a Military station and show how necessary it is when a Lodge is in a prosperous way to keep a good balance safely stored away in the Bank. St. Johns in its days of prosperity appears to have been a little too generous and, as will be seen in the sequel, suffered accordingly.

At this Meeting it was resolved to call an emergent of thanksgiving for the providential escape of H. M. the Queen from the attempt at assassination at Windsor. The Rev. Bro. French, the District Grand Chaplain, was invited to officiate and the other Lodges were asked to attend. The Emergent Meeting was held on 15th April and was very well attended by 29 brethren from all the Lodges. The Rev. Bro. French delivered a long and eloquent address which is reproduced in the Minutes and forms the first entry in

## BOOK No. VII (1882-1892).

In return for the District Grand Chaplain's address a sum of Rs. 91 was collected amongst the brethren and sent to him for distribution amongst the poor.

The question of arrears was discussed and the Acting Worshipful Master told the brethren that in the opinion of the District  
 July 26. Grand Master, Stewards' dues should be considered as Lodge dues and no clearance certificate be granted unless these were paid in full. A bath-room being urgently required, Wor. Bro. Carrs very generously offered to build one at his own expense.

There appears to have been a sort of informal Meeting of officers of St. Johns and of Mayo in order to discuss how "Old  
 Sept. 27. St. Johns" could best be helped. One suggestion was that Mayo should hand over every other fresh joining member to St. Johns. To such a course there would clearly be objections. It was finally decided that a Special Committee should meet and decide—

- (1) What are the actual wants of St. Johns ;
- (2) Has the Lodge the means of supplying those wants ;
- (3) If it would be advisable to ask aid from other Lodges.

Lodge Mayo appears to have very handsomely offered assistance to "Old St. Johns" from its superfluity and Bro. Tigar, the Worshipful Master of Mayo and an old Member of St. Johns being present, the Acting Worshipful Master proposed a vote of thanks to him and the brethren of Mayo "for the handsome and fraternal way in which they had come forward to offer aid to 'Old St. Johns' and felt sure it was offered in all sincerity and good Masonic brotherly love."

From the subsequent proceedings it does not appear that any help was taken by St. Johns from the Sister-Lodge and she seems to have got over her difficulties, whatever they may have been, by her own efforts. None the less all credit is due to Lodge Mayo for her fraternal offer.

The Secretary, Bro. Hales, was not present and a letter from him was read resigning his post "owing to circumstances  
 Oct. 25. which would compel him not to attend Lodge again." There is no record of the resignation being accepted and the misunderstanding appears to have been smoothed over because two Meetings afterwards Bro. Hales appears as S. W. and remained a prominent member of the Lodge (once Worshipful Master) frequently acting as Secretary until his death 20 years later. In addition to Wor. Bro. Campbell other prominent members were Wor. Bros. Carrs, Forbes, Ardaseer, Ruttonjee, all of whom subsequently passed the chair.

Wor. Bro. Campbell was again elected to the chair and installed at the next Meeting on St. John's day. A Past Warden's Jewel was voted to Bro. Rolph, the S. W., who had refused to stand for the chair.

The receipt of a handsome piece of plate presented by Bro. Saunders, the actual Master during the previous year but who had only been present once when installed, was acknowledged.

The Minutes do not appear to have been very carefully kept as there are frequent gaps, and names are omitted. Rs. 60 was voted for the relief of deceased Brother's widow, in spite of a proposed amendment that the state of the funds did not admit of it.

The first time for several months that the Worshipful Master was able to attend owing to various causes such as indisposition, an accident, engagements, etc. Very little business has been transacted during the year. The bath-room built at the expense of Wor. Bro. Carrs was completed and handed over to the Lodge.

Col. Bro. Gadsden for many years a member and a P. M. of the Lodge resigns on his departure for England. (On a former occasion when going Home this Brother was elected a Life-Member of the Lodge, and as this election still held good the Secretary was directed to remind him of the fact.)

Wor. Bro. Carrs was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and Bro. Ardaseer, Treasurer.

Installation day. Opened as usual when any degrees had to be conferred, in the morning. The ceremony was performed by Wor. Bro. Colin Johnstone, whose services seem to have been generally made use of for this purpose.

Wor. Bro. Carrs was absent for several months during the year. In March Wor. Bro. Tew presided, Wor. Bro. Campbell in April and May and in June the J. W., Bro. Capt. Lambert Browne, was in charge, though Bro. Campbell presided.

Some trouble seems to have arisen owing to the resignation of Bro. Veeraswamy who for many years had been Tyler, Clerk and Writer to St. Johns and the other Institutions. Before the resignation was accepted he was called upon to produce a note from the other Lodges that he was not indebted to them in any way. This seems to have been misrepresented and Lodge Mayo sent a

letter protesting against interference in its affairs. Bro. Veeraswamy then applied to withdraw his resignation, but as he had been using the Lodge compound as a kind of livery stable for his own private purposes, and it was also complained that the Lodge and anti-room were not properly cleaned and looked after, and other irregularities were also complained of, and it was decided to reprimand Bro. Veeraswamy but to allow him to withdraw his resignation "provided he promised to carry on no business within the limits of the Lodge and confined himself strictly to his duties of Tyler, Writer, etc."

Bro. Veeraswamy was called in, reprimanded and promised obedience in future.

Owing to the low state of the funds the monthly subscription of Rs. 10 to the Orphanage was reduced to Rs. 5.

The Permanent Committee's Report was read.

|                  |     |     |           |    |   |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----------|----|---|
| Cash in hand     | ... | ... | Rs. 368   | 5  | 0 |
| Dues due         | ... | ... | " 469     | 6  | 0 |
| Rent "           | ... | ... | " 218     | 10 | 0 |
|                  |     |     | <hr/>     |    |   |
|                  |     |     | Rs. 1,056 | 5  | 0 |
|                  |     |     | <hr/>     |    |   |
| Due for servants | ... | ... | Rs. 161   | 0  | 0 |
|                  |     |     | <hr/>     |    |   |
| Balance          | ... | ... | Rs. 895   | 5  | 0 |
|                  |     |     | <hr/>     |    |   |

In the Fund of Benevolence there were Rs. 153-3-10.

No abstract of the strength of the Lodge or work done is given.

Worshipful Master still absent and Bro. Campbell presiding. The District Grand Master, Col. Aubrey Saunders, having  
**June 18.** resigned on retirement, his brother W. A. M. Saunders was voted for by the Lodge. Further complaints are made regarding the Tyler Veeraswamy's neglect of duty.

The widow of Wor. Bro. Hills, a P. M., applied for assistance. After  
**July 30.** some discussion it was resolved that Rs. 30 a month be given for six months in support of the children and Rs. 25 for pressing necessities.

Worshipful Master still absent and Bro. Campbell officiating. Wor.  
**Aug. 27.** Bro. Colin Johnstone resigns his post of I. P. M. and requests to be put upon the absent list.

Notice to show cause ordered to be sent to defaulters. Bro. Forbes  
**Sept. 24.** gave notice that at the next Regular Meeting he would propose "That this Lodge address Lodge Mayo with the view of the amalgamation of that Lodge with St. Johns."

The foregoing proposal was discussed and carried, though it does not appear from subsequent proceedings that anything ever came of it.

Oct. 29.

The names of three defaulting brethren were ordered to be struck off and reported to Grand Lodge.

Bro. Lambert Browne was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year and installed at the next Meeting by Wor. Bro. Colin Johnstone.

Nov. 26.

The Permanent Committee's Report was read, but is not reproduced. A question arose as to who had invited certain guests to the Installation banquet. It was proposed that their expenses should be paid from Lodge funds. The Treasurer objected but Bro. Hales said that the "custom had been carried on for years in the Lodge" and it was resolved that the expenses should be paid as usual.

Jan. 28, '85.

Wor. Bro. Saunders rejoined the Lodge after his absence from India.

March 25.

The death of Wor. Bro. Sausman, a P.M. of the Lodge, was announced and a subscription list circulated on behalf of his widow.

May 27.

The Minutes are very briefly recorded during this year, but a considerable amount of work appears to have been got through and the Lodge is evidently increasing in prosperity.

It was again resolved to address Lodge Mayo regarding amalgamation. The ballot for a candidate having proved foul, a second ballot was held which proved clear, but the Secretary was directed to address the Grand Lodge and ask whether a second ballot under such circumstances was legal.

July 29.

At the next Meeting a telegram from Grand Lodge was received stating that the second ballot was legal and the candidate, Mr. Woodbridge, was accordingly initiated.

Aug. 26.

Friction appears to have occurred between St. Johns and Lodge Morland on account of the latter having retained the services of Bro. Veeraswamy as Tyler, although notice of his dismissal had been sent. Several acts of alleged discourtesy on the part of Lodge Morland were also mentioned and we learn that "the matter was discussed to such an extent that the Secretary was unable to write down all the arguments but the decision was as follows:—Wor. Bro. Ardaseer proposed that Lodge Morland be given notice to quit the premises, and find some other place to work in."

Sept. 30.

It does not appear that any Brother suggested that Lodge Morland should be called upon for an explanation, which seems a pity.

A subscription of Rs. 67 was raised for the wife of a deceased

Oct. 28. Mason who had not been a member of the Lodge, but

who had been a member of Morland from which he resigned in "consequence of something occurring which he considered unmasonic."

Nov. 25. The Wor. Master Lambert Browne, who had been absent for the last six months, was present.

Bro. Trewinnard having been elected at the last Meeting was

Dec. 26. installed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer who appears in the capacity for the first time. The ceremony was so well

performed that the worthy Brother was accorded a vote of thanks by acclamation.

Jan. 27, '86. The late Worshipful Master's name does not appear as I. P. M. in the list of officers, although he was present.

Several names have for the last five or six months disappeared from the Minutes although no note of resignations has been recorded—especially those of Wor. Bro. Campbell, Bros. Forbes, Colin Johnstone and Stone. It seems probable that one of the reasons for this was the difference with Lodge Mayo.

A proposal was brought forward that the bye-law should be altered and in future two black balls should exclude. (Hitherto *one* black ball had been sufficient.) Thereupon the following interesting discussion followed: "Bro. Hales suggested as an amendment to the proposal that three members of the Permanent Committee be deputed to enquire into the character of every candidate proposed for initiation. Bro. Hayes in seconding the amendment added some arguments in support of it. Bro. Carey thought that if the amendment proposed were put into force it would have the effect of forcing the ballot-box which was an essential of secrecy; further that it would be unnecessary to have a ballot-box at all, if it was considered advisable to have a Special Committee to fulfil the object for which the ballot was instituted. He quoted a case in which a rejected candidate obtained damages against a Lodge in London. Wor. Bro. Trewinnard said that if every Brother in the Lodge did his duty and protected the interests of Freemasonry, there would be no need for special investigations of the kind which Bro. Hales' amendment had in view. After some further discussion Bro. Hales' amendment was put to the vote and lost." The point is an important one, and there is a great deal of truth in the argument that the appointment of a Secret Committee would practically do away with the necessity of a ballot. It will be remembered that about ten years back there had been several cases of

blackballing in the Lodge apparently without sufficient reason and the Worshipful Master suggested that brethren having an objection to a proposed candidate should state it in confidence either to the Worshipful Master or to the proposer. This would have a similar result. It would seem that after all the ballot is the best, as it seems certain that any investigation by a Secret Committee would most certainly lead to unpleasant consequences.

Wrongly entered in the Minutes as 27th January. Wor. Bro. Lambert  
Feb. 24. Browne, the Worshipful Master of the previous year,  
tenders his resignation.

A discussion on the proposed alteration reducing the number of  
black balls from three to two. An amendment was made  
March 31. that three should be necessary, which was ultimately  
carried. In the course of the discussion the opinion was advanced by the  
Worshipful Master that possibly one of the reasons for the decline of the  
Lodge might be the severity with which the ballot was exercised,  
candidates rejected in St. Johns apparently for no other reason except  
nationality, being "received with open arms" by other Lodges.

Mr. F. W. Watts was elected and initiated. This Brother subsequently  
became a prominent member, and, after filling various  
April 28. offices, passed the chair. His musical talents were  
especially appreciated. 20 years later he was the oldest and one of the  
most important members. The S. W. appointed three months previously  
had resigned on account of being unable to pay his dues and the question  
was raised and referred to District Grand Lodge whether his successor  
for the rest of the year would qualify for election to the chair. At the  
next Meeting a ruling of the District Grand Lodge was read deciding  
that in order to qualify for the chair a full year's service as Warden was  
necessary. This ruling is no doubt in strict conformity with the Consti-  
tutions, since *installation* in a Warden's chair at the time of the installa-  
tion of the Worshipful Master is absolutely necessary to qualify, but the  
apparent anomaly arises, that having once been installed he need only  
attend one Meeting in order to qualify. The same rule applies to a  
Worshipful Master. The qualifying service runs from the date of  
installation whether the Warden or Worshipful Master has actually  
attended or not. A Warden therefore who has sat on one occasion in  
the chair—namely installation night—would be qualified for election as  
Worshipful Master, whereas if he had to leave the following week his  
successor having sat and served for eleven months would not be qualified.

Lodge Keystone (Mark) contributes Rs. 100 towards repairs and  
another letter to Lodge Mayo proposing amalgamation  
June 24. is read.

A vote of condolence to his widow was passed on account of the death of Wor. Bro. Colin Johnstone who, during the last 15 years, has been so prominent in the Lodge, especially as Installing Master.

A letter from Lodge Morland requesting to be allowed the use of the building on former terms. This was agreed to "on condition that they paid up all arrears and refrained from interfering with and giving orders to the servants."

Wor. Bro. R. Carey was installed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer as Worshipful Master.

Emergent Meeting for discussion regarding celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. It was resolved to send to District Grand Lodge Rs. 50 from Lodge Funds in addition to subscriptions from members and to call a General Meeting of all Masons to draw up a congratulatory address to be sent to Her Majesty the mother of H. R. H. the Grand Master.

Regular Meeting. Lodge not opened. Sufficient members not being present.

An Emergent Meeting to ballot for and to initiate Major Briggs and Captains Cromie and Parkinson of the Hampshire Regiment. Wor. Bro. L. Browne appears at this and the next Meeting although he had resigned at the commencement of 1886. No entry appears that Wor. Bro. Browne had rejoined.

No Regular Meeting owing to paucity of members.

Wor. Bro. Lambert Browne asks to be put on the absent list.

Nothing of importance occurred during the rest of the year. The Jubilee appears to have been celebrated by a Ball but nothing more is mentioned about the address. There have been a fair number of joining members and the Lodge is improving in numbers.

Bro. Hales was installed as Worshipful Master by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer.

Letter read from Grand Lodge requesting that a Special Meeting be convened to nominate a Brother as Provincial Grand Master; also a circular from Grand Lodge regarding the way that the ballot should be conducted; that all candidates be obligated at the Worshipful Master's pedestal; that Masters, P. M's, and other officers are not authorized to wear their collars of office when visiting other Lodges, but P. M's may wear the new Regulation P. M. collar. Resolved, that a Jubilee Jewel be given to Wor. Bro. Carey.

Emergent Meeting. H. E. Lord Connemara, Governor of Madras, was nominated District Grand Master, and Col. Moore the Deputy.

Feb. 2.

Rs. 60 in addition to a Jubilee Jewel was handed over to Bro.

Feb. 27.

Ardaseer as the surplus of subscriptions. A letter was read from Bro. Twentyman from Algeria sending his absentee subscription (£3) for three years in advance. Although retired, this Brother had kept his name on the books of his mother Lodge. Thanks and good wishes were recorded to Bro. Col. Twentyman.

Bro. Ardaseer presented Rs. 60 to the Benevolent Fund.

June 25.

Presentation of a Jubilee Jewel to Wor. Bro. Carey.

It having been decided by Lodge Perfect Unanimity in Madras to present a testimonial to Wor. Bro. Col. Moore (after-

Sept. 26.

wards Sir George Moore), the late Deputy District Grand Master, Lodge St. Johns resolved to contribute.

A Bro. Louis Durand who had taken his first degree at Bangalore was allowed by dispensation to take the 2nd degree in

Oct. 31.

St. Johns. An initiation and two passings were conducted on this evening by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer. In fact for several years it became almost a custom to hand over the Hiram to Bro. Ardaseer whenever a degree was conferred. It is of course very satisfactory to have a P. M. who can be depended upon in a case of emergency for help, but as a rule the Worshipful Master should do at all events the greater part of the work himself.

From a letter from Lodge Perfect Unanimity, Madras, we understand that the testimonial to Wor. Bro. Col. Moore was to take the form of a Past Deputy District Grand Master's Jewel, and two portraits, one for himself and one for the Grand Lodge. These were to be presented on occasion of Lord Connemara's installation which was to take place in the Banqueting Hall of Government House on 24th November. A copy of the portrait in permanent photography was to be sent to each subscribing Lodge.

After an initiation and passing (performed by Bro. Ardaseer) the Worshipful Master for the next year was elected and the votes fell upon Wor. Bro. Ardaseer Ruttonjee.

Nov. 28.

The Lodge as usual on Installation day met for work in the morning

Dec. 27.

and then adjourned till 7 P.M. when it re-assembled and the Installation ceremony was gone through. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer being already a P. M. of Mayo he was simply placed in the chair. When returning thanks the Worshipful Master said that he

had already been Worshipful Master of Morland in 1880 and of Mayo in 1883-84—and again in 1887-88, but that he felt prouder than ever at being elected to the chair of “Dear Old St. Johns” his mother-Lodge. The members of Lodge Mayo attended in considerable force and in thanking them the newly-installed Worshipful Master remarked that St. Johns was in a very low state as regards numbers, and hoped that if any of them could afford to belong to two Lodges that they would do so.

Besides the usual Christmas charities to the orphanages, Rs. 30 was voted to a poor and distressed Brother, “stranded and sick in a foreign land.”

The Worshipful Master's son was elected as a candidate and initiated. Three other joining Brethren were also elected  
**Jany. 30, 1889.** and Rs. 600 was voted from the General Fund for repairs to the building. For some years no report of the Permanent Committee has been entered in the Minutes, so that it is not clear what the exact financial condition of the Lodge was.

Nothing of interest occurs during the next few Meetings. There were two or three joining members, and on August 20 Mirza Mehdi Khan was elected a rejoining member by acclamation.

It was proposed by the Worshipful Master to admit the Rev. J. Dobie as a candidate for initiation by acclamation.  
**Sept. 25.** A ballot however was held and proved clear whereupon the ceremony was performed. Rs. 25 was voted to the widow of a deceased Brother.

A Brother writes requesting to be allowed to resign but the Secretary is directed to inform him that his resignation cannot be accepted until his arrears are paid. This seems to be  
**October 30.** wrong. The resignation when made should be accepted, but of course a clearance certificate could not be given. By refusing to accept the resignation the Brother's name is kept on the list against his desire and the dues of course will go on accumulating. It was resolved to apply to the Madras Masonic Institution to admit the grandson of Wor. Bro. Hales, the I. P. M., on their books. In seconding this proposal, Wor. Bro. Carrs called attention to the fact that although St. Johns had two Life-Governor votes, this was the first occasion when they had recommended any one for admission.

The following proposal was then made by the Worshipful Master: “That with a view to prevent the possibility of these premises of Lodge St. Johns, commonly known as Freemasons' Hall, being disposed of in any way, either by sale, gift or otherwise, that this Lodge transfers its

right, title and interest to the District Grand Lodge of Madras, and that for that purpose a regularly drawn up trust deed be executed between the Worshipful Master of this Lodge and the Officers of the District Grand Lodge. This Lodge reserving of course its rights to the premises as heretofore and otherwise managing it for Masonic purposes."

This was seconded and carried.

Bro. Watts was elected to the chair for the coming year. Bro. Veeraswamy about whom there had been trouble in  
**Nov. 27.** former years was again admitted and elected as Tyler. Rs. 100, according to custom, was voted for a Children's Christmas treat.

Installation day. The Lodge met in the morning and assisted at the orphan's treat held in the orphanage next, and met  
**Dec. 27.** again in the evening when the Installation ceremony was performed. Rs. 50 from Lodge funds to supplement private subscriptions was voted for a P. M. Jewel to Wor. Bro. Hales.

Capt. Gibbings was initiated and a proposal was carried (whether notice had been given does not appear) that the subscription be raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 5, the extra Rs. 2 being  
**Jan. 29, 1890.** solely devoted to a Steward's fund to supply refreshments on ordinary Meeting nights and towards reducing expenses on Banqueting nights, and that not more than three months' credit be given. Four new joining members were proposed, but at the ballot in the next Meeting only two were elected.

Complaints were made regarding the way that the Tyler did his work.

One candidate, Mr. S. Laver, and five joining members (Bros. Templeton, Harmon, Baker, Lawrence and Ulett) were  
**Mar. 26.** elected. At the initiation the charge was given by the J. W. This is one of the first instances on record of a part of a degree being deputed to one of the officers, and it is a practice which is much to be commended. The Worshipful Master should of course show that he is perfectly competent to do the work himself, but afterwards if he deposes to his officers different portions of the various degrees that are worked during the year, not only does it add very greatly to the efficiency of the officers themselves, but it adds greatly to the general interest of the proceedings. It is apt to become monotonous for brethren to have to sit night after night and witness the same ceremonies in which they are never called upon to take a part until they themselves succeed to the chair when they have as it were to begin from the beginning. A subscription of Rs. 20 a month was voted to

the wife of a Brother who "had got into trouble" until 'her husband should be free again.'

**April 30.** It was resolved to sell the old harmonium and devote the proceeds to a fund towards purchasing a piano.

A dispensation from Grand Lodge was received granting permission to appear in Masonic clothing at an entertainment to be given under Masonic patronage.

**May 28.** Two new candidates were proposed (Messrs. Weston and Marsch).

**July 31.** Mr. V. Marcar was initiated. Bro. Nuswanjee was elected Tyler in the place of Bro. Veeraswamy.

The Lodge seems to be very prosperous this year and at nearly every Meeting either candidates or joining members are proposed. There is however nothing of any general interest beyond the ordinary routine work.

As usual on St. John's day a full day's work, two degrees were conferred in the morning and in the evening Bro. Weber was installed as Worshipful Master. As usual Rs. 100 was distributed amongst the orphanages.

**Dec. 27.** Wor. Bro. Watts' year of office seems to have been an eminently successful and prosperous one. For the first time after several years the Report of the Permanent Committee appears in the Minutes. The year began with 34 members, of whom 12 were on the absent list. During the year there were 10 joinings and seven admissions. There were however three resignations and three exclusions for arrears so that the year closed with 42 members of whom 14 were on the absent list. As regards finances the year began with Rs. 632-4-8 in hand, and closed with Rs. 960-6-10. The general opening balance was Rs. 1,578-8-5 and the closing balance Rs. 2,334-8-7 although Rs. 493 had been struck off (on account of rent, Rs. 240; non-paying members, Rs. 237, and by the death of a Brother, Rs. 15). The liabilities on the other hand were only Rs. 261-14-3.

In the fund of Benevolence however there was only Rs. 2-2-9.

**Jan'y. 28, 1891.** A P. M. jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Hales.

Lodge Morland sent a cheque for Rs. 600 being rent for two years in arrears and at the same time a claim for Rs. 150 being share of loss sustained in lending mess kit. This latter point was referred to the Permanent Committee. Four new joining members were proposed (Bros. Cassels, Seabourn, Willmot, Gribble) and one candidate (Beverly).

**March 25.**

Bro. Milligan, a retired Sergeant-Major, was appointed Tyler. This  
 April 29. Brother continued as Tyler for nearly 8 years in Secunderabad acting for the various Institutions, and afterwards in Chuddergat where he received an appointment in the Nizam's army, until his death in 1905.

A Report was read from the Permanent Committee recommending  
 June 24. that quarters be built for the Tyler and Caretaker not to cost more than Rs. 3,000. Funds to be raised by 60 debentures at Rs. 50 bearing 6 per cent. interest.

The matter of the new building was discussed. A suggestion was  
 July 29. made that the other Lodges should be asked to join. It was decided to ask Wor. Bro. Carrs to draw up plans and estimates. A P. M. jewel was voted to Wor. Bro. Watts, Rs. 50 from Lodge Funds being sanctioned to supplement private subscriptions.

On a bill for £5-16-6 for Minute Books, Books of Constitution and  
 Aug. 26. *Rituals*, Wor. Bro. very rightly pointed out that it was unconstitutional to purchase rituals from Lodge Funds. As they appear to have been ordered by the Secretary without previous sanction of the Lodge, it was resolved to call upon him for an explanation.

In reply to the application from Lodge Morland for Rs. 150 as  
 Sept. 30. compensation for loss of crockery lent, it was resolved to send Rs. 50 only.

(N.B.—It seems a pity that with so many institutions working in the same building there should have been no central management of a joint stock.)

It appeared that the bill for Rituals, Minute Books, etc., had actually been passed by the Permanent Committee and the Worshipful Master, but by oversight had not been laid before the Lodge. It was accordingly passed without any further discussion as to the propriety of purchasing rituals from Lodge funds.

A claim for house-tax having been made by the Cantonment  
 Oct. 25. authorities it was resolved to ask for an exemption on the ground of the Lodge coming under the head of "A Temple or Charitable Institution."

Bro. Goodwin was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing  
 Nov. 25. year. Bro. C—the oldest member of the Lodge being unable to pay his dues they were remitted.

Installation Meeting. A letter was received from the Cantonment  
 Dec. 28. Magistrate stating that exemption could not be given from payment of house-tax. Resolved, that Bro. Forbes be asked to draft a petition to the Resident on the subject.

The Installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Weber and the P. M. jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Watts. Thanks were also passed to the I. P. M. Bro. Weber, for the handsome present of a clock.

Jan. 16, 1892. A Lodge of sorrow in memory of the deceased Bro. Capt. Cole, largely attended by members and visitors.

The Permanent Committee's Report showed a balance in hand of Rs. 677-7-4 or nearly Rs. 300 less than the opening balance. The gross receipts were Rs. 4,785-14-10 and expenditure Rs. 4,108-7-6. The dues and rent owing amounted to Rs. 489 and Rs. 120 respectively, and liabilities to Rs. 110-15-10, leaving a balance to the credit of the Lodge of Rs. 1,165-7-6 or little more than half the opening balance. The Fund of Benevolence however had increased to Rs. 232-7-6. There were three joinings and seven initiations during the year bringing the strength up to 52 members, but there was one death and eight resignations, leaving an actual strength of 43 members or a gain of one. The reduction of the balance was due to some very heavy expenses in purchase of almirah, lamps, crockery, etc., and in repairs to the compound.

On the whole the year had been a prosperous one showing good work.

Jan. 27. The Permanent Committee's Report was read but unfortunately is not recorded, but "considering the amount of work done and the valuable additions made to the Lodge property, it was considered very satisfactory indeed" and adopted. Bro. Garbut was passed and Bro. Douglas raised. A sum of £7 sent as relief to Mrs. L—in England, is acknowledged with thanks.

Feb. 21. Three new joining members. Bro. Garbut was raised to the 3°. Bro. Mirza Mehdi Khan an old member asked to be allowed to resign since under the bye-laws he could not be an absent member. As a special case it was resolved that he should be allowed to be put on the absent list.

(Query? Has a Lodge the right to set aside its own bye-laws in this manner? The present bye-law of St. Johns makes it compulsory for every member within a radius of 8 miles to be a resident member. The rule seems to be a rather severe one since there are other Lodges working at Chudderghat 4 miles off, and the Bolarum Cantonment is 6 miles away. There are possibly many Masons living at a distance who cannot attend regularly, but who would keep on the books and attend occasionally if allowed to remain on the absent list. A better rule would be to make the jurisdiction of St. Johns conterminous with the Cantonment and to allow Brethren at Bolarum, Chudderghat and Hyderabad to be on the absent list, charging them a full month's subscription when they attend.)

One candidate and four joining members proposed.

*Note.*—The military element in St. Johns appears to be diminishing and the Lodge is now being largely recruited from the civil residents of Secunderabad.

A new candidate and a fresh joining member were proposed and two initiations were conducted. Bro. Col. Clubly writes from Jersey forwarding his dues up to the end of 1893 and asking to be put on the retired list as he is not likely to return. A good Mason. The Secretary's dues were remitted from the commencement of the year on the ground of the work being heavy. Wor. Bro. Hales had been Secretary for many years and deserved well of the Lodge, but the exemption is an unusual one and it is doubtful whether it is regular. The Secretary becomes in reality a paid or serving Brother, and as such, is not entitled to vote or speak. On this occasion the Worshipful Master was absent on business and owing to a mistake there was no supper provided. It was proposed that a permanent Butler be appointed so as to avoid another disappointment in the matter of refreshments and Bro. Gribble, the Worshipful Master of Lodge Morland who was also a member of St. Johns, suggested that a Committee from each Lodge should meet and arrange the matter as they were all interested. At

June 9. the next Meeting of the Permanent Committee it was decided to engage a permanent Butler on Rs. 20, dividing his salary between the three Craft Lodges, the R. A. and the Mark Lodge. Proposed also that Rs. 200 be contributed from Lodge funds towards a piano.

June 24. The usual St. Johns banquet was held.

It was proposed (after other routine business) by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer that all rent collected from other Lodges be kept  
July 27. separate and placed to the credit of a Building Fund.

This proposal was carried but does not seem to have been acted upon. In spite of an amendment (which was lost) it was resolved that the Steward's Fund should be amalgamated with the Lodge Fund.

A military candidate (Sergeant) was blackballed, this being the second time this had happened during the last three  
Aug. 31. months, and gave rise to a discussion as to whether the civilian element was not antagonistic to the military. Another military member protested against this view and said that he had never been in a Lodge where the feeling between civilians and military had been so cordial. In spite of this, however, one of the military Brethren resigned the Lodge and refused to reconsider his resignation. At the next Regular Meeting however this Brother requested that his resignation might be cancelled. This was unanimously agreed to.

Oct. 26. It was resolved to exclude non-Masons from the banquet.

On this subject there seems to be very divergent views. The writer was at one time in favour of their admission but has since come to the conclusion that except on very special occasions they should not be admitted, since their presence gives a check to any Masonic conversation.

Major Bro. Little, the D. A. A. G., was balloted for and elected—  
 Nov. 30. and subsequently elected as Worshipful Master. This Brother's name had not been *proposed* at the previous Meeting and the course therefore seems to have been rather irregular. It is not the custom in St. Johns to affix a copy of the Summons to the Minutes and possibly his name was inserted in the Summons. Even if this had been the case the course would seem to have been illegal, since under rule 189 of the Constitutions, "no Brother shall be admitted a joining member of a Lodge without being proposed and seconded in *open* Lodge at a Regular Meeting *after* which his name, etc., shall be sent to all the members in the Summons."

[Query? Does this rule also apply to a rejoining member? *i.e.*, to a former member of the Lodge duly elected, who, after absence, wishes to rejoin].

At this election Bro. Little received the same number of votes as another Brother but the Worshipful Master gave his casting vote in favour of the former. Rupees 100 were voted towards a tombstone over the grave of the late Bro. Cole. Rupees 100 were as usual voted to the orphanages for a Christmas treat.

Installation day. A largely attended Meeting in the morning for the  
 Dec. 27. ordinary business and adjourned until the evening for the ceremony, which was conducted by the Worshipful Master Goodwin. A P. M. jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Weber. Bro. Stevens was proposed as a joining member and destined afterwards to become a prominent one. Bro. Biddulph, the Cantonment Magistrate, was also proposed.

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## BOOK No. VIII (1893).

The Worshipful Master was absent on duty on account of the visit of the Grand Duke of Austria. There were several new joining members balloted for, amongst them Bro. A. H. Stevens. The Permanent Committee's report was read from which we learn that—

|                                       |     |     |     |     | Rs.          | A.    | P.   |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|-------|------|
| On January 1, 1892, there was in hand | ... | ..  | ..  | ..  | 677          | 7     | 4    |
| Collected during the year             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,897        | 10    | 0    |
|                                       |     |     |     |     | 3,575        | 1     | 4    |
| Expended during the year              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,972        | 2     | 10   |
|                                       |     |     |     |     | Cash balance | 602   | 14 6 |
| In the Building Fund                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 623          | 8     | 0    |
| Benevolent Fund                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11           | 2     | 0    |
|                                       |     |     |     |     | 1,237        | 8     | 6    |
| Dues from Members                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 407          | 0     | 0    |
| „ for Rent                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 150          | 0     | 0    |
|                                       |     |     |     |     | Total Assets | 1,794 | 8 6  |

## LIABILITIES—

|                                        |       |     |     |     |       |   |   |
|----------------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---|---|
| Dues to Grand Lodge                    | ..... | ... | ... | ... | 118   | 0 | 0 |
| „ „ „                                  | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 7     | 9 | 8 |
| Balance on Piano                       | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 275   | 0 | 0 |
| Establishment                          | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 44    | 8 | 0 |
|                                        |       |     |     |     | 445   | 1 | 8 |
| Balance to credit on 1st January, 1893 | ...   | ... | ... | ... | 1,349 | 6 | 0 |

## STRENGTH—

|                      |     |     |                      |
|----------------------|-----|-----|----------------------|
| On 1st January, 1892 | ... | ... | 26 Resident Members. |
|                      |     |     | 15 Absent.           |
|                      |     |     | 41                   |
| Joinings             | ... | ... | 10                   |
| Entries              | ... | ... | 3                    |
|                      |     |     | 54                   |
| Resignations         | ... | ... | 5                    |
| Exclusion            | ... | ... | 1                    |

Total Strength .. 48 members, of whom 13 are absent. A considerable expenditure had been incurred in repairs to the building and in purchase of a piano.

Feb. 22. Three new joining members—Colonel Hunt and Bros. Asbury and Coleman.

The widow of a deceased Brother, who with her children had been several times relieved again applied for help which however was declined. It was announced that Bro. Ardaseer had been elected a D.G.S.W. Three new joining members proposed.

May 31. Lodge Morland invited all the Brethren to be present at the laying of the foundation stone for the Morland Assembly Rooms in Chudderghat, to take place on 10th June.

June 24. Several degrees were worked in the morning and Lodge adjourned till evening. Three new joining members announced.

Sept. 27. Rs. 443 sanctioned for repairs to the out-houses.

Nov. 15. } Emergent Meetings for conferring degrees.  
 „ 22. }

Six new joining members were elected and one for initiation. Rs. 100 sanctioned towards the Masonic Institution. Wor. Bro. Little was re-elected to a second year of office, his first having proved to be eminently successful. For the last several years Wor. Bro. Hales has been Secretary, Wor. Bro. Ardaseer, Treasurer and Bro. Milligan, Tyler. This arrangement is continued.

As usual the Lodge opened in the morning for degree work. In the evening there was a large attendance including representatives from the Grand Lodge of all Scottish Freemasonry in India who had come to visit the Scotch Lodges. Also Wor. Bro. Newett as a representative of the District Grand Lodge of Madras who was received with honours and took possession of the Lodge on behalf of Grand Lodge. Grand honours were then given to the representatives of the Scotch Grand Lodge, and the Grand Master, A. S. F. I. and Officers were received and greeted in full form. The Installation ceremony was then performed by Bro. Weber. The Annual Report showed an excellent result for the year. From 45 members the number had risen to 58 in spite of 9 resignations. There had been 19 ceremonies during the year. The cash balance was reduced to Rs. 134-40, but there had been a heavy expenditure during the year of Rs. 3,747-4-0. The Building Fund showed a credit of Rs. 235-13-3 and the Fund of Benevolence, Rs. 85-13-10. Altogether, including dues, the assets were Rs. 1,252-10-1 and the liabilities Rs. 211, leaving a balance to credit of Rs. 1,041-10-1. During the year Rs. 1,815-10-9 had been spent in purchase of furniture, balance due for piano and in repairs. A very successful year was closed by a most successful Meeting and gathering, both the Grand Lodges being present at the banquet.

Altogether the Christmas week was a very festive one from a Masonic point of view. The new Assembly Rooms in Chadarghat were consecrated, the Scotch Lodges were officially visited. A new Secret Monitor Conclave was opened, a grand banquet of about 150 was given in the Minister's palace in Chadarghat on the occasion of the consecration. In fact the week formed a culminating point in both English and Scotch Freemasonry in Hyderabad, to lead however, unfortunately in the near future to a great reaction.

**Jan. 31, 1894.** Two new joining members and one candidate elected.

**March 26.** One candidate and one joining member elected.

**April 25.** Lieut. and Qr.-Mr. Rorke of Welsh Regiment, and Sergt. G. I. Locke, 21st Hussars, were initiated and Bros. Wills and Close raised to the 3°. A P. M. jewel was then presented to Wor. Bro. Goodwin.

Lodge opened in the morning. One candidate (Sergt. Coventry) and two joining brethren elected and two ceremonies in the 3° performed. In the evening four candidates and two joining brethren announced.

All three degrees were conferred during the evening. An estimate of Rs. 2,500 for removing the pillars in the hall, enlarging the eastern end and improvements to the roof was sanctioned. A guest this day was Wor. Bro. the Rev. J. T. Lawrence, P.D.G. Chaplain, who congratulated the Lodge upon "the impressive and dignified manner of working." He said that it was evidently making a bid for the Premier place in the District in numbers and for work and promised to report to Grand Lodge the high opinion he had formed of St. Johns.

The three degrees were again worked this evening, one initiation, two passings and four raisings and the Lodge was not closed until 9-45. The Lodge is evidently working at high pressure.

The use of the banquet room for the celebration of a wedding was sanctioned. At this Meeting there was the smallest attendance of any for some time, only seven members being in attendance.

A well-attended Meeting—37 including four visitors. The Treasurer's account for the last month showed a balance in favour of the Lodge of Rs. 260-0-5. A new joining member was admitted; two brethren were passed and two raised to the 3rd degree. It was resolved to get up a concert, the proceeds of which were to go towards meeting the cost of the alterations.

Nov. 9. An Emergent Meeting was held to revise the by-laws.

Election night. 35 members present. Two passings and three raisings. Bro. A. H. Stevens was elected Worshipful

Nov. 16. Master by a large majority and Bro. Goodwin, Treasurer. Wor. Bro. Gribble asked to be allowed access to the records of Lodge St. Johns in order to compile a history of Freemasonry in the Deccan. This was sanctioned, but as Wor. Bro. Gribble soon after had to go to Europe for some months, the books were sent back and the record was commenced by Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens. This Brother succeeded in drawing up the record of the first 6 years from 1822—28 but then had to give it up owing to being put on special duty for the plague and then having to go to Europe on sick leave. On his return this worthy Brother having retired from active Masonry the subject was dropped until Wor. Bro. Gribble again took it up in 1905.

Installation night. Bro. the Rev. J. T. Lawrence, P.D.G.C., visited the Lodge officially and was received in the 3rd degree. Jan. 18, 1895. He was received as Representative of the Grand Lodge and saluted, but declining the gavel asked the Worshipful Master to proceed with the work. The Permanent Committee's report was read and passed and then a P. M. jewel was presented to the Worshipful Master—surely a well-deserved one. Wor. Bro. Lawrence spoke in very high terms of the condition of the Lodge and spoke of it as occupying the first place in the District for quantity and quality of work.

The Permanent Committee's report was read. The assets stood as follows:—

|                                  |     |     |     |     | Rs.   | A.    | P.   |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|------|
| Cash balance                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7     | 6     | 6    |
| Building Fund                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2     | 13    | 3    |
| Benevolent Fund                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 222   | 11    | 10   |
| Due by members                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 600   | 4     | 6    |
| Rent due                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 200   | 0     | 0    |
| Stewards' Fund                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 52    | 4     | 10   |
| Due by Stewards                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50    | 0     | 0    |
|                                  |     |     |     |     | Rs.   | 1,135 | 8 11 |
| <i>Liabilities—</i>              |     |     |     |     |       |       |      |
| Vest & Co.                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17    | 11    | 0    |
| Contractor on account of repairs | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,746 | 0     | 0    |
| Due Orphanage                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10    | 0     | 0    |
|                                  |     |     |     |     | Rs.   | 2,773 | 11 0 |
|                                  |     |     |     |     | „     | 1,135 | 8 11 |
| Balance Dr.                      | ..  | ... | ... | ... | Rs.   | 1,638 | 2 1  |



M. H. Wilkinson, P.M.



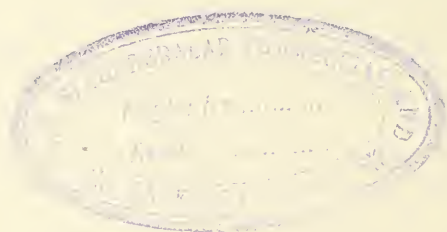
B. Raghunath Prasad, P.M.



A. H. Stevens, P.M.



S. M. Moinudin, P.M.



The numerical strength of the Lodge had risen from 59 to 78 members. There had been 15 joinings and 16 initiations and only 12 resignations—truly a Record year in the annals of the Lodge. Altogether 50 ceremonies had been performed.

A letter was read from the Worshipful Master of Lodge Morland offering the use of their building whilst the repairs were being carried out.

These repairs altogether cost Rs. 4,246 but had the effect of greatly enlarging and improving the Meeting Hall and Building. New furniture, lamps and various articles had been purchased.

**Feb. 15.** A well-attended Meeting but beyond the proposal of a new candidate and a new joining member no work was done.

**Mar. 15.** The net proceeds of the Concert amounted to Rs. 553. Two initiations were performed (Major Welshman and Mr. Alfred Smith). Two initiations and one joining announced.

**April 19.** It was resolved to increase the rent charged so as to include use of piano and kit. Confirmation of the revised by-laws received. Three initiations were conferred.

**June 24.** St. John's day in Summer. Lodge opened at 7 A.M. Two initiations, one passing and three raisings were announced but being absent owing to the inclemency of the weather only the last ceremony was performed in the evening.

**Sept. 20.** There had been some correspondence about a drain to be constructed into the compound from the neighbouring orphanage. After some discussion it was decided to refuse the request. No less than seven resignations were tendered owing to brethren leaving with their Regiments.

**Nov. 15.** Wor. Bro. Stevens was re-elected to the chair. Three more resignations received. Several names were brought to notice on account of arrears and that of a former Worshipful Master Lambert Browne was ordered to be struck off and excluded. Certain other brethren were written to.

**Dec. 27.** Installation day. Lodge visited by Wor. Bro. Powell, P. G. Officer of Bengal, who was introduced in regular form. A Purse was presented to Bro. Hales (amount not mentioned) for his long services as Secretary. In spite of the many resignations owing to the departure of the Suffolk Regiment the Worshipful Master congratulated the Lodge on its strength (64) and on having reduced its liabilities for the repairs from Rs. 1,638 to Rs. 288.

Jan. 17, 1896. Five new joining members proposed and were duly elected at the next Regular Meeting.

Several resignations were tendered, amongst them that of Wor. Bro. Weber, a P. M., and of his partner Bro. Schenck. An illuminated letter and casket having been received from Lodge Waltair it was presented to Wor. Bro. Ardaseer in recognition of his services in having gone to that station for the purpose of opening the Lodge.

The day of Meeting was changed from the 3rd Friday of the month to the last Wednesday, the day on which it continues to be held at the present time. This is the most convenient day of the week for the Military members as Thursday is a garrison holiday and there are no parades. Saturday evening is generally devoted to a Club dance. It was announced that the Worshipful Grand Master would visit Secunderabad and Hyderabad for inspection in the following June. Wor. Bro. Little announced his approaching departure and said good-bye to the Lodge and it was resolved that a photograph of him be taken to be hung in the banquet room. It was also resolved to present Wor. Bro. Stevens, the Worshipful Master, with a jewel on the occasion of the visit of the District Grand Master.

The Tyler Bro. Milligan and the whole of his family having been very ill, it was resolved to give him Rs. 50 to assist him in paying for medical comforts, etc. Owing to the heat it was resolved to hold no Meeting in May, but a morning Meeting in June in order to clear off arrears of work before the Grand Master's visit. One joining member proposed.

At the morning Meeting four resignations were put in. A letter from District Grand Lodge was read in which it was stated that the admission of a Brother as a member on the voucher of another Brother was illegal and he must be in possession of his Grand Lodge Certificate and Clearance Certificate before he can be balloted for. Three candidates were initiated and the Lodge adjourned to the evening. After the Lodge had opened, the visit of the Rt. Worshipful the Grand Master was announced. A deputation was sent out to receive him and he was introduced into the Lodge in due form and saluted. Declining the Hiram, the Worshipful Master proceeded to confer the 2nd degree on Bro. (Lieut.) Ready. After this to celebrate the visit and in recognition of favours received from the T. G. A. O. T. U. it was proposed (no notice had been given in the summons) that Rs. 100 be given from the Fund of Benevolence to the Masonic Institute. The District Grand Master was then asked to present the Worshipful Master with the jewel that had been voted to him which was done.

The District Grand Master (Col., afterwards Sir George Moore) then addressed the Lodge. In congratulating the Lodge upon the high rank it had always held, the District Grand Master laid stress upon quality in preference to quantity and said "I would sooner see a Lodge of five-and-twenty loyal and zealous brethren all striving for the good of the Lodge than one of 50 split up into various sections ignoring the interests of the Lodge and sacrificing its welfare to private and personal feelings."

Speaking about the ceremony just performed, the District Grand Master said that the examination by the Wardens should be conducted in an audible tone.

The District Grand Master then retired. Three new joining members were proposed.

It will be noted that although on two or three occasions a representative of District Grand Lodge had visited the Lodge, this was the second occasion during the 74 years since its foundation that it had been formally inspected by the District Grand Master in person.

All three degrees were conferred at this Meeting on Lieut. E. C. Nepean, Bro. Foot and Bro. Ready respectively. Bros. **July 29.** Major Wright, Rev. F. Crowther proposed as joining members and Lieut. Nesham and Sergt. Lovegrove as candidates.

A Funeral Lodge for the late Bro. Westgate the J. W. On this **Aug. 26.** occasion the body was taken into the Lodge and after being saluted in silence was conducted in procession to the cemetery. After the funeral the Lodge was opened for the Regular Meeting. Certain brethren were passed through the 2nd degree and the Lodge was then closed.

**Sept. 2.** An Emergent Meeting with dispensation to raise the candidates who had just been passed—Bros. Nesham, Lovegrove and Nepean.

**Oct. 28.** The widow of a long deceased Brother wrote from Jersey asking for assistance for herself and children. Rs. 50 sent.

Bro. Devlin (Lieut.), the S. W., was elected Worshipful Master. As usual Bro. Ardaseer proposed the customary Christmas **Nov. 25.** gifts to the local charities. Four new joining members proposed. The Permanent Committee report showed—

|                     |     |     |     |     | Rs.   | l.    | s.  |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|
| Cash balance        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 233   | 3     | 3   |
| Outstandings        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 66    | 1     | 0   |
| Due from Lodge Mayo | ... | ... | ... | ... | 360   | 0     | 0   |
|                     |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |       |     |
|                     |     |     |     |     | Rs.   | 1,254 | 3 3 |

No answer having been received from Lodge Mayo to several communications, a strict letter was sent.

**Dec. 26.** Installation day. Five joining members elected and then the installation was held. Lodge closed at 8-45.

Three new joining members (Bros. Capt. Marshall, V.C., Whiting and Armstrong). The Worshipful Master gave an  
**Jan. 27, 1897.** account of his two years of office. "I took over the Lodge with 74 members and during my two years as Master I have had 19 joinings, 14 initiations, 15 passings, 15 raisings, 50 resignations, 1 exclusion and 2 deaths and I hand over the Lodge with 54 members. Financially, I took over the Lodge in December 1894 with a Balance to debit of Rs. 1,638-2-1. In December 1895 this balance was reduced to Rs. 288-7-10 and in December 1896 I hand over the Lodge with a balance to credit of Rs. 678-1-3, after paying Wor. Bro. Carrs (the Contractor) Rs. 2,546 off his account for alterations to Lodge and spending over Rs. 666 on improvements, furniture, etc." A very creditable record! The resignations which came as a heavy blow were due almost entirely to Military movements. It was resolved to convert the subscriptions from H. S. to Government Rupees. Wor. Bro. Gribble asked to be allowed to hold his Conclave of Secret Monitor in St. Johns. Three resignations announced.

One joining member and one candidate elected. A P. M. jewel sent from Lodge Bangalore was presented to Bro. Gould.  
**Feb. 24.** One candidate (Mr. Baylis) was initiated and Bro. Armstrong was passed to the 2nd degree. The use of the Lodge for the S. M. Conclave was granted for Rs. 10 per Meeting.

Bro. Baylis passed through the 2nd degree. Bro. Major Wright and Rev. F. Crowther resign the Lodge. The large  
**Mar. 31.** outstandings cause trouble and discussion (Rs. 690-5-0).

A Lodge of sorrow in memory of W. P. M. Goodwin,  
**April 22.** Bro. Westgate and Wor. Bro. Llewellyn.

It was decided to have no Meeting in May but to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in combination with the other  
**April 28.** Lodges.

Jubilee Meeting. 58 brethren were present. After opening Lodge, the Rev. Bro. Crowther proposed a hymn and then made an  
**June 24.** oration. A telegram was sent to the D. G. M. congratulating him on his Jubilee honours (Col. G. Moore had been made a Knight). 5 candidates (Lieut. Aherne, R.A. and four Lieuts. from the 19th Hussars, Binny, Campbell, Wingfield and Percy) were proposed and Bro. Weborney as a joining member. (Owing to the reduced number of members, Lodge Mayo requested that its rent might be reduced by Rs. 5.

Sanctioned as a tentative measure. Owing to various causes Lodge Mayo had for the last two years been at rather a low ebb.) The P. C. reports that the outstandings have not been materially reduced; and requests that all defaulters be called upon to "show cause."

Lieuts. Binny, Wingfield and Campbell were initiated and Bro. Armstrong was raised to the 3rd degree. Wor. Bro. Watts resigned the Lodge. Bro. Gribble proposed two candidates—Capt. Ievers, Cantonment Magistrate and Mr. Crawford, Superintendent of Police, and Bros. Cpts. Hardy and Hutchinson as joining members. Bro. Ardaseer proposed Capt. Hehir as a joining member and Bro. Belcher proposed Serpts. Senior and Hardy as candidates, also by Bro. Armstrong Lieuts. Pepys and Holford of the 19th Hussars.

Three candidates (Crawford, Handy and Aherne) were initiated. Bro. Wingfield was passed. Bro. Holmes was excluded for non-payment of dues and another Brother was given one more chance. At this Meeting the Worshipful Master was absent, his Regiment having been ordered to the front (Tirah). Bro. A. H. Stevens, the I. P. M., officiated and proposed that a P. M. Jubilee jewel be presented to him.

Owing to the absence on duty of several of the officers other arrangements had to be made. Bros. Aherne, Crawford, Campbell and Hardy were passed.

An Emergent Meeting to raise Lieut. Bro. Wingfield and to hear the first of a series of lectures proposed. Bro. Gould's lecture was on the officers of a Lodge and "as the evening was still young the Worshipful Master asked Wor. Bro. Gribble if he could oblige with any subject of interest." Bro. Gribble then gave a short lecture on the Symbolism of Masonry and the origin of the Square. Four other lectures were announced:

Errors in Freemasonry, by Wor. Bro. Stevens.

Morality of Freemasonry, by Wor. Bro. Battenberg.

Theories of Freemasonry as applied to practice, by Wor. Bro. Stevens.

Symbolism of Masonry, by Wor. Bro. Gribble.

A very pretty programme which however died a premature death.

Bros. Crawford, Handy, Aherne and Campbell were raised to the 3rd degree. Bro. Gould announced his departure and a vote of thanks was passed to him for his services whilst a member of the Lodge. It was suggested at this Meeting that permission

should be obtained to open a Lodge of Instruction. The proposal was seconded and carried. Capt. Ievers requested by letter that his name, as a candidate, might be withdrawn.

Emergent Meeting. Wor. Bro. Stevens (in the chair) delivered  
 Nov. 10. a lecture on the daily errors in Freemasonry. On the conclusion of the lecture the writer, who was then acting as J. W., suggested that recent researches in the Lodge Quatuor Coronati in London had thrown considerable light upon the actual date of the initiation of the Lady Freemason (the daughter of Lord Doneraile) which, if correct, would materially affect the Worshipful Master's argument on this point, since it would bring the date of the ceremony which she clandestinely witnessed, and at sight of which she fainted to 1713. At this stage, however, the Worshipful Master closed the discussion by calling to order. This appears to have been the last of the proposed series of lectures, which is to be regretted, since a mere ritual routine is apt to become monotonous. It is very difficult to distinguish between the ordinary conduct of a Lodge, where of course the Worshipful Master's word is the last one, and an open discussion on historical points of research. In such cases it may be difficult to sustain an argument against the Worshipful Master's gavel.

Wor. Bro. Watts appears as a rejoining member. Lieuts. Marsden and  
 Nov. 24. Douglas of the R. A. were admitted as candidates for initiation. Bro. Lieut. Binny was raised to the 3rd degree and Wor. Bro. Stevens was elected as Worshipful Master. Bro. Ardaseer was again elected as Treasurer and Bro. Milligan as Tyler. It was resolved that substantial assistance be given to the widow of Bro. Sergt. Luck who had fallen at the front and the District Grand Lodge and Grand Lodge of England be addressed on the subject. It was proposed to hold a Masonic Ball during January.

Installation day. Lodge met in the morning, routine business and one  
 Dec. 27. initiation were performed and then adjourned to the evening, at which there was a large assemblage. The installation of Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens was performed in the evening by his brother W. Frank Stevens, P.M. of Lodge Waltair. The newly-installed Master then gave his resumé of the year's work. The Lodge had commenced with 56 members. During the year 22 had joined, 14 had resigned and 3 had died so that the year closed with 61. The funds were stated to be in a healthy condition, but the outstandings were still large (figures not given). Wor. Bro. Frank Stevens, P. M. of Waltair, then presented Wor. Bro. Ardaseer with a Founder's jewel in recognition of his having opened Lodge Waltair. Bro. Ardaseer returned thanks for the

Jewel and begged to be allowed to contribute Rs. 25 to the Poor Box of Lodge Waltair.

(N.B.—The writer thinks this a proper occasion on which to record the high estimation he formed of Bro. Ardaseer as a Mason during the constant Masonic intercourse he had with him in the various Masonic Institutions of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. He was a just, upright and modest man, thoroughly imbued with Masonic principles. He always thought of others; never of himself, and was thoroughly efficient in the discharge of any Masonic duty that he might be called upon to perform at a moment's notice. He, like many others, with whom the writer has spent many improving hours in Hyderabad, has now passed away to the Grand Lodge above, but his memory in these parts is still held in love and respect.)

Bro. Ardseer, as usual, reminded the Lodge of the customary donations at Christmas to the various local charities which, as usual, were sanctioned.

It appears that the Masonic Ball given in the Basheer Bagh Palace belonging to H. E. the Minister had been a great success.  
**Jan'y. 26, 1898.** It took place on the 3rd January and was largely attended. A vote of thanks was passed to Bro. Capt. Marshall, V.C., for having acted as D. C. A rule was passed that all refreshments at the bar and table should be paid for.

Wor. Bro. Ardaseer in the chair, the Worshipful Master being absent on plague duty. Bro. Milligan having received an appointment in H. H. the Nizam's troops resigned his position as Tyler. A distinguished visitor at this Meeting was Bro. Martanda Varma, the 1st Prince of Travancore.  
**Feb. 23.**

Bro. DeSouza was initiated and appointed as Tyler. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer was congratulated on having attained the 23rd Anniversary of his membership of the Lodge.  
**June 24.**

The outstandings due by members amounted to Government Rs. 989-4-0. The Worshipful Master decided to address all members owing more than Rs. 15 by a personal letter.  
**Aug. 31.** The Communication from the M. W. the Grand Master of England was read—the members rising for the purpose—in which it was decided that the Grand Lodge of Peru should not be recognized by the English Craft as long as the Bible was excluded from its Lodges. This prohibition has since been withdrawn as Peru has now conformed to the ancient custom.

Wor. Bro. Watts was elected as Worshipful Master and duly installed on December 27, at which Meeting there was a large attendance but beyond the installation ceremony no other, except routine, work was transacted.  
**Nov. 30.**  
**Dec. 27.**

**Book No. IX.**

Two joining members. Col. Heathcote, R.E. and Bro. Weber were elected, also one candidate (Mr. Walsh) was initiated.  
**Jan. 25, 1899.** Three resignations (Bros. Shipway, Gribble and Purton).

From a statement of the accounts for the 1st quarter it appears that the Worshipful Master took over the Lodge with a balance of only Rs. 23-13-1, that during the quarter  
**April 26.** Rs. 981-6-3 had been collected and Rs. 547-7-6 expended, leaving a balance of Rs. 482-14-9; evidently a good beginning of his term of office.

A message from the M. W. the Grand Master of England was read re-admitting the Grand Lodge of Peru to Brotherhood since it had resolved to restore the V. S. L. to its proper place in the Lodges under its jurisdiction.

The balance to credit of the Lodge amounted to  
**July 26.** Rs. 2,061, but of this Rs. 1,336-5-1 were dues outstanding.

A combined Lodge of Sorrow in memory of the late Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher. This worthy Brother had been present at the last Meeting as I. P. M., but had since died very suddenly. The Meeting was very largely attended by representatives of all the Lodges, there being over 50 Brethren present. The Worshipful Master delivered the oration, in which he eulogized the Brother's devotion to Masonry and the example he had set of every private and Masonic virtue.  
**Sept. 25.**

The writer of this chronicle supplemented the Worshipful Master's oration by his own experience of Bro. Ardaseer's life and character and subsequently closed the Lodge in the three degrees.

A letter was read from Lodge Mayo offering to pay half of certain repairs required to the entrance, which however was declined with thanks. Bro. Sergt. Lovegrove was elected Worshipful Master. A combined Organist and Steward's jewel was also voted to Wor. Bro. Watts for his services during the last few years, a P. M's having already been presented to him. The usual Christmas donation of Rs. 100 was given to the orphans.  
**Nov. 29.**

Installation day. Lodge opened in the morning for business and for one passing. Rt. Wor. Bro. Dr. Pollen from Bombay  
**Dec. 27.** (D. G. M., s.c.) was present at this Meeting and was greeted with Grand Honours.

The Permanent Committee's report showed a balance to credit of the Lodge of Rs. 1,773-8-7. The amount of arrears due, however, was Rs. 1,001-12-3. The figures relating to the strength of the Lodge are not given.

Rs. 407 for repairs to the cookroom were sanctioned. Four joining members were elected and one 3rd degree was given to  
**Jan. 31, 1900.** Bro. Tucker. The Grand Orient of France having opened a Lodge "Hiram" in London, a communication from Grand Lodge was read stating that the Grand Orient of France had no jurisdiction in England and that all English Freemasons were therefore prohibited from attending this "irregular body." The Grand Orient of France had excluded the name of T. G. A. O. T. U. from its proceedings and therefore as far back as 1877 all communication had been prohibited.

A circular from Grand Lodge was read asking for subscriptions towards the relief of the Transvaal Lodges. The members of the Lodge were invited to be present at the wedding of Bro. Adolphus.

**April 25.** The Worshipful Master having left the Station on duty, Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens officiated as Worshipful Master for the rest of the year.

St. John's day. A very poor attendance of only 14 Brethren, of these six were visitors and much sympathy was expressed with  
**June 25.** the old Lodge for the small number of attending members.

The death of Wor. Bro. Fellowes, for many years a member, was announced. This Brother died in England whilst away on leave. His appointment was Superintendent in the Nizam's Police. He had belonged to many Lodges and had founded a Scotch Lodge in Raichur. Lodge Morland (the mother-Lodge) was holding a Lodge of Sorrow and it was resolved that St. Johns should be represented. It was resolved to raise the rent of Lodge Mayo to Rs. 30 plus Rs. 5 for use of the piano and to call upon the Lodge to provide its own Stewards' kit.

Bro. Holmes elected as Worshipful Master and installed on December  
**Nov. 28.** 27, when the Organist jewel was presented to Bro. Watts.  
**Dec. 27.** A very kind letter from Lord Ampthill, the new Governor of Madras, was read, greeting the Lodge from his old Province (Bedfordshire) and hoping to make the acquaintance of the Brethren in Madras. The condition of the Lodge was as follows: There had been a loss of four members during the year and the numerical strength was 35. The cash balance had been reduced from Rs. 490 to Rs. 378, but Rs. 1,470 were due from members and on account of rent.

Merely routine business. Eight new joining members were proposed  
**Jan. 30, 1901.** amongst them, Col. Grove-White, Major Lumley and  
**Feb. 27.** Capt. Hayes; one candidate was also announced.

A letter from the Grand Secretary of England was read conveying

March 27. H. M's thanks for the sympathy expressed by the  
Masons at the death of her late Majesty Queen Victoria.

(No record of any vote of sympathy appears on the Minutes.) Bro. Stevens is placed on the absent list as he is going Home. It was resolved to abolish the by-law prohibiting non-Masons being present at Banquets. Two new joining members announced. For several Meetings Wor. Bro. Hales, a P. M., and for many years the Secretary, has been absent owing to illness, from which he never recovered.

July 14. Notices to show cause were sent to ten Brethren  
owing over Rs. 600 in dues.

It was resolved to hold a Lodge of Instruction, but it does not  
appear that the Resolution was carried into effect. Only

July 31. two other defaulting Brethren having paid up, the rest  
were "excluded."

Bro. Col. Grove-White was elected Worshipful Master. Lodge

Nov. 27. Mayo having resolved to give a Masonic entertainment,  
the Lodge was asked to appoint representatives to serve  
on the Committee which was done.

Installation of Bro. Col. Grove-White. Bro. Daw was presented  
with P. M. jewel sent from Lodge Anchor of Hope, at

Dec. 27. Wellington, in recognition of his services there.

The financial condition of the Lodge has greatly improved.

|                   |     |     |     |           |     |     |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|
| Balance at Bank   | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 1,146 | 2   | 8   |
| Due by Members    | ... | ... | ... | "         | 305 | 0 0 |
| Rent              | ... | ... | ... | "         | 210 | 0 0 |
| Stewards' Account | ... | ... | ... | "         | 242 | 7 0 |
| Breakages         | ... | ... | ... | "         | 2   | 8 0 |

Rs. 1,906 1 9

The liabilities are stated to be *nil*, but the strength of the Lodge is not given. It is however clearly in a much more prosperous condition than at the beginning of the year.

No business of any importance. The end of the 1st quarter shows

Jan. 29, 1902. a marked improvement in the financial condition. The  
Feb. 26. credit balance has risen to Rs. 1,717-13-11 with no  
March 26. liabilities and the outstandings have been reduced to

Rs. 236-13-3.

Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens who was for so long a prominent member  
in the Lodge but whose name has not appeared for  
May 28. many months, writes to resign his membership.

Mr. J. Davies was elected and initiated. Wor. Bro. Grove-White who is leaving the Station pays up his dues to the end of the year, after which he resigns. There is little of history to record during this worthy Brother's period of office, but the improvement in every respect has been marked and the Lodge is in a flourishing condition. At the next Meeting Col. Grove-White sent a cheque for Rs. 100 as a farewell gift to the Lodge funds.

Wor. Bro. Hales has been for some months very ill and a sum of Rs. 100 was ordered to be sent to him from Lodge funds and a subscription list was also circulated.

Dec. 27. Wor. Bro. Hammond is installed as Master.

The death of Wor. Bro. Hales was announced. The Lodge decided to go into mourning for one month and to hold a Memorial Service. The funeral expenses amounting to Rs. 135 were also paid.

The financial condition was as follows:—

|                 |     |     |     |       |    |    |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|----|
| Building Fund   | ... | ... | Rs. | 747   | 5  | 3  |
| Benevolent Fund | ... | ... | "   | 96    | 13 | 6  |
| General Fund    | ... | ... | "   | 334   | 12 | 5  |
| Total Rs...     |     |     |     | 1,178 | 15 | 2  |
| Stewards' Fund  | ... | ... | "   | 227   | 15 | 10 |
| Total Rs...     |     |     |     | 1,406 | 15 | 0  |

The strength of the Lodge and work done is not mentioned, nor whether there are any liabilities or outstandings.

Feb. 25. Several joining members announced, amongst them Bro. C. H. D. Moberly, Agent of the Bank of Bengal.

Lieut. Church of the 1st Lincolns and Sergt. Capon were elected and were duly initiated and Bro. Major Nepean elected as a rejoining member. Bro. Peacock was raised to the 3rd degree. Bro. Lieut. Bowal of the 1st Madras Lancers and Bro. Capt. Heineman of the Middlesex Regiment were elected as joining members. The Lodge funds continue to be in a very healthy condition.

|                |     |     |     |       |    |    |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|----|
| Building fund  | ... | ... | Rs. | 760   | 1  | 11 |
| General fund   | ... | ... | "   | 708   | 6  | 7  |
| Stewards' fund | ... | ... | "   | 178   | 12 | 4  |
| Total Rs...    |     |     |     | 1,647 | 4  | 10 |

Outstandings are not mentioned. Altogether the last few Permanent Committee's reports have been very brief.

July 29.               Capts. Blakeney, Dinnis and Lieut. Dawson were initiated and Bros. Capon and Church were raised to the 2nd degree.

Aug. 26.             The 2nd and 3rd degrees were bestowed on the brethren entitled to them from the last Meeting.

The 3rd degree was worked for Bros. Blakeney, Dinnis and Dawson. Lodge Esperanza, No. 252, announces the death of Bro. Sept. 30.           T. Davies and asks for a remittance of £6 spent on his funeral ceremonies. (This was referred to the Permanent Committee.) Another Bro. J. P. Davies was proposed as a joining member, and Bros. Nepean and Major Hardy as joining members.

(N.B.—From this date the Minutes are type-written.)

A communication from Grand Lodge was read regarding the publication of Proceedings of Lodges in Masonic papers. Oct. 28.             Attention is drawn to Rule 205 of the Constitutions, in which it is laid down that “no Brother shall print or publish or cause to be printed or published the Proceedings of any Lodge or any part thereof without the consent of the Grand Master, or Provincial or District Grand Master, or print or cause to be printed anything which by the Laws and Regulations of Masonry is improper to be published.” The communication then quotes the order issued by the R. W. Deputy Grand Master, the Marquess of Salisbury, K.G., issued on 3rd March, 1841, prohibiting under the most stringent penalties the publication of any Proceedings without due authority and directing that the order be read in all Lodges. It does not appear that this order was ever communicated to Lodge St. John, and no record appears of it. Meeting with it at this stage the writer of this record feels inclined to exclaim: “Alas! Alas! my labour is lost!”

Bro. C. H. D. Moberly was elected as Worshipful Master by a large majority and Wor. Bro. Watts as Treasurer. The funds Nov. 25.           of the Lodge have greatly prospered.

|                   |     |     |     |       |    |   |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|---|
| Building fund ... | ... | ... | Rs. | 898   | 11 | 3 |
| General fund ...  | ... | ... | „   | 1,035 | 6  | 2 |
| Stewards' fund    | ... | ... | „   | 167   | 14 | 3 |
| Total Rs...       |     |     |     | 2,101 | 15 | 8 |

There is however no mention of the strength, work done or the amount of outstandings.

Installation day. Bros. Capt. Brown, I.M.S. and W. E. English Dec. 28.           elected as joining members. The 2nd degree was worked for Bro. Caldbeck and the Installation ceremony was

then performed. Two new joining members were proposed, *viz.*, Bros. Capt. Cox and Lieut. Wilson of the Lincolnshire Regiment. The death of Wor. Bro. Weber having been announced, it was resolved to hold a Lodge of Sorrow in his memory and that of the late Wor. Bro. Hales, and also to place a tombstone over the grave of the latter. The usual orphanage donations for Christmas were voted.

Permanent Committee's report shows—

|                 |     |     |     |     |       |    |   |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|---|
| Building fund   | ... | ... | ... | Rs. | 806   | 15 | 3 |
| Benevolent fund | ... | ... | ... | „   | 50    | 13 | 3 |
| General fund    | ... | ... | ... | „   | 1,200 | 14 | 0 |
| Stewards' fund  | ... | ... | ... | „   | 136   | 6  | 5 |

|             |     |     |             |       |    |    |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|-------|----|----|
|             |     |     | Total Rs... | 2,195 | 0  | 11 |
| Liabilities | ... | ... | „...        | 255   | 14 | 0  |

|               |       |   |    |
|---------------|-------|---|----|
| Balance Rs... | 1,939 | 2 | 11 |
|---------------|-------|---|----|

Still no mention of strength, work done or outstandings.

Lieut. Wilson was initiated. A Bye-law was introduced prohibiting any member being on the absent list who resides within a 8-mile radius. This practically excludes brethren living at Chudderghat and Bolarum who might belong to other Lodges but who might still wish to keep their names on the St. John's list.

Jan. 27, 1904.

Could not an exception be made in favour of such brethren as may be actually full subscribing members to one of the other Lodges working either at Secunderabad or Chudderghat.

Query ?

Feb. 17. Lodge of Sorrow for Wor. Bros. Hales and Weber.

Bro. Wilson was passed to the 2nd degree. Messrs. Lieut. Lowe and Ainsworth were elected as candidates and initiated. Bro. Major Nuthall was elected as a joining member. Lodge Mayo subscribed Rs. 30 towards Wor. Bro. Hales' tombstone. Bros. Capt. Croley, Lieuts. Hext, Barkley and Andrews proposed as members.

Feb. 24.

(N. B.—The name of Hext appears as one of the members of the Lodge 50 years ago.) Lieut. Browne Salmon proposed as a candidate.

Mr. Hext was initiated and Bros. Lowe and Ainsworth passed to the 2nd degree and afterwards Bro. Wilson was raised to the 3rd degree—a hard night's work finishing at 9 p.m.

Mar. 30.

The General Fund credit balance having risen to Rs. 2,311-14-9 it was resolved to invest Rs. 1,500 in Government paper, a most excellent

resolve and the first record of the Lodge funds being placed on a stable basis.

May 25. Mr. (Lieut.) P. Reeves of the Lincoln Regiment elected as a candidate and initiated.

Wor. Bro. Syed Hoossain Bilgrami (Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk Bahadur, Director of Public Instruction, H. H. the Nizam's Government), Worshipful Master of Lodge Deccan was elected as joining member.

For the first time it is recorded that the charges of a Freemason were read by the Secretary. This is a custom that is more honoured in the breach than in the observance and should be oftener followed.

Wor. Bro. Moberly was re-elected Master, Wor. Bro. Watts as Treasurer and Bros. Col. Yourdi and Capt. Bliss proposed as joining members.

After reading the ancient charges the Installation ceremony was performed. Rs. 150 as Christmas gifts to the local charities were voted and Bro. Ruddle proposed as joining member.

A joint Meeting of the Permanent Committees of Lodge St. John and Lodge Mayo was held and it was decided to jointly entertain Tyler, caretaker and peons at a cost of Rs. 95 per month to be divided amongst the various institutions. The Tyler to do the Secretariat work of all the Lodges and to receive Rs. 50 a month without tiling fees. This was confirmed at a subsequent Meeting of St. John's Permanent Committee. The finances at the end of the year were—

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| General fund ... ..  | Rs. 2,353 15 6  |
| Stewards' fund .. .. | 98 6 2          |
|                      | <hr/>           |
|                      | Rs... 2,452 5 8 |

Jan. 25. Bros. Ruddle, Fisher, Knox, Morden, Finney, Hovell and Haddon were elected as joining members and Mr. Mair (Lieut., Manchester Regiment) for initiation.

Feb. 22. Mr. Mair was initiated and Bro. Willcocks passed to the 2nd degree. Bro. Mir Liakut Ali proposed as joining member.

May 31. Bros. Col. Macdonald, Lake, Pearson and Hunt were admitted as joining members.





Syed Ahmed, P.M.



T. Srinivasacharya, P.M.



Syed Md. Hassan, P.M.



C. C. Little, P.M.

Bro. S. Pahlaw admitted as joining . . . It was announced that the M. W. the District Grand Master would  
**June 24.** visit Hyderabad on 18th August and wished to meet the Brethren. It was subsequently decided to hold the District Grand Lodge Communication in Secunderabad on that day.

**July 26.** Wor. Bros. Col. Little and J. D. B. Gribble, I.C.S., having rejoined the Station were proposed as joining members.

The Grand Lodge Communication was duly held on the 18th August, but the Minutes do not contain any record of it.

H. E. Lord Amptill, M. W. District Grand Master, accompanied by Wor. Bro. H. Bradley, Deputy Grand Master and Wor. Bro. Brougham, Grand Secretary presided.

The officers appointed were—

Wor. Bro. J. D. B. Gribble, P.D.G.S.W., as District Grand Senior Warden.

„ C. H. Moberly as D.G.J.W.

„ Rev. C. H. Barry as D. G. Chaplain.

„ Watts as D. G. Steward.

D. G. S. D.

D. G. J. D.

D. G. I. G.

The Meeting was largely attended and was followed by a Banquet at which all the English Lodges were represented.

Wor. Bro. Gribble proposed and Wor. Bro. Syed Hoossein Bilgrami seconded, that a wedding present be given to the  
**Aug. 30.** Worshipful Master on the occasion of his marriage on the 18th October.

The District Lodges having proposed to give a testimonial to the Rt. Wor. the District Grand Master, to commemorate  
**Sept. 27.** his rule, it was resolved to circulate a subscription list and to collect Rs. 200.

Bros. Lloyd Jones and Rosenthal were passed to the 2nd degree.

The Worshipful Master being absent, Wor. Bro. Watts presided.

**Oct. 25.** Bro. J. Pardey, an E.A. from Lodge Pitt Macdonald, was admitted a joining member, and Capt. F. Duncan Irvine and Mr. Fred. Herbert were elected as candidates. The Secretary returned thanks on behalf of the Worshipful Master for the wedding present which consisted of a large salver with the names of the brethren engraved. Mr. English, a Brother of one of the members, was initiated and by special dispensation passed on the 2nd and raised on the 10th November at Emergent Meetings called for that purpose.

## NOTE ON THE ST. JOHN'S BUILDING.

There seems to be considerable cause for doubt whether the building in which Lodge St. John works now is the original building erected soon after the foundation of the Lodge. When certain repairs were made in the nineties and a new roof built to the Lodge room, it was found that the walls were merely mud, and it is extremely improbable that this room could have cost the money which the proceedings show to have been spent. The room now used as a dining-room is clearly a subsequent addition. When the new roof was built it was found necessary to throw out buttresses in order to support it, and Bro. Carrs who carried out the work says that the room had all the appearance of having been converted from an old bungalow. The records however show no trace of any change of building, and strange to say, beyond the right accruing from its long occupancy there are no title-deeds to the building either in the Lodge records or the Cantonment registers. If there was a change of building, it must have occurred during the period for which one of the record books is missing.

In connection with this subject, it is perhaps worth mentioning that when the writer was first introduced into the Lodge building 17 years ago, there was a tradition that it had been originally used as a Church, and that when the present St. John's Church was built—about quarter of a mile distant—the old building was made over to the contractor who presented it to the Freemasons as a Lodge. Certainly the Lodge room as it existed in 1890 was much more like a small Church. There was a nave in the middle with pillars on each side, forming side aisles, and in the east there was a small recess like a chancel. If it had been built for the purpose of a Lodge it seems difficult to understand what led the builders to adopt this very inconvenient form. When the Lodge was repaired during the mastership of Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens the pillars were pulled down and it now forms a very convenient hall, and is quite large enough for all purposes.

It may be here noted that six of the chairs now used by the Past Masters, have a historic interest. They originally formed part of the furniture of the Brighton Pavilion. The greater part of this furniture was sent out in the first quarter of the 19th century for use in the Residency building at Chudderghat and six of the chairs appear to have been presented to the Lodge, though there is no mention of the gift on the record. The whole of the furniture thus sent was very richly gilt although the style and form cannot be said to be in good taste, nor are the chairs particularly comfortable. Until a few years ago the rest of the furniture was still in the Residency, when, however a clearance was

made; the greater part was sold by auction, and the purchaser informed the writer that he expected to make a handsome profit by taking off the gold from the chairs and selling it as bullion.

#### NOTE REGARDING BRO. DEIGHTON.—(About 1852.)

In connection with this worthy Brother whose name is constantly mentioned during the periods 1845—60 there is an exceedingly interesting historical incident which reflects very highly upon his personal character. Mr Deighton appears to have been employed in a mercantile capacity in Hyderabad and about the end of the forties was a very highly-esteemed personage. He appears to have been a *persona grata* with the Resident, General Fraser, with H. H. the Nizam's Government and with various members of the nobility. At that time H. H.'s Government was in great difficulties owing to a large debt of nearly half a million sterling due on account of the Berar Contingent. It seemed inevitable that territory would have to be handed over to the British Government as security for the debt, and the Resident suggested that Mr. Deighton should be put in charge of one or more of the districts. For some reason or other, not now quite apparent, Lord Dalhousie disapproved of this appointment. Very considerable pressure was put upon the Nizam to meet the debt and His Highness eventually resolved to pawn his State jewels. The matter was arranged in the following manner. A number of the Hyderabad Sahukars (or money-lenders) resolved to form a State Bank of which Mr. Deighton was to be the Managing Director. This Bank was to advance to His Highness forty lakhs of Rupees (=£400,000) receiving the State jewels as security. The money was raised, the amount was handed over to His Highness and the jewels were duly received by the Directors. Then however the Government of India interfered and declared the whole arrangement to be illegal since under an old Act of Parliament Europeans could not hold monetary transactions with Native Princes. The result was a local financial crisis. The Nizam had parted with his jewels and received the Bank's cash and he naturally refused to hand over the money which had been intended for the payment of his debt to the British Government until he knew what was to become of his jewels. The Sahukars on the other hand had handed over their cash, the idea of a Bank had been knocked on the head and they wanted, each of them, security for their money. The jewels were in Mr. Deighton's possession and he was, as it were, responsible both to the Nizam and to the Sahukars. The able manner in which he got himself out of this difficulty without loss of honour, forms a romantic episode in the history of finance. A Meeting of the Sahukars was held at his house in a room next to that in which was the safe. The safe was opened, each tray of

jewels was taken out and produced before the Committee, an accurate inventory made and then carried back to the next room. But instead of being replaced in the safe, the contents of each tray were deposited in a pair of *jack boots* standing close by. When this had been done the safe was locked and sealed with the various seals of the Sahukars. Next morning Mr. Deighton left for Madras accompanied by his medical attendant. There were no railways in those days and they travelled in palankeens a distance of about 600 miles. Half the jewels were in Mr. Deighton's palankeen and the other half with the Doctor in a box labelled "Medical Comforts." Wonderful to say, Mr. Deighton got through in safety. He embarked at Madras with his jewels, carried them safely to Amsterdam where he pawned them for a sufficient amount to repay the Sahukars for what they had advanced and then returned to India and settled up his accounts. Eventually when under the able administration of Sir Salar Jung, the State finances were thoroughly restored, the jewels were redeemed and handed back to the Nizam. There can be nothing more creditable to this most worthy Mason than the courage with which he undertook this responsible duty and the honesty with which he carried it through. A history of Lodge St. John would be incomplete without a tribute to the memory of so worthy a member.

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## LODGE MAYO, 1406, E.C.

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This Lodge was founded in 1872 and the Charter is made out in the names of: Benjamin Simner; Walter H. James; Pemberton Harrison; John Hackett; William H. Harris; Abraham Augustus Stewart, and George Douglas Cookson.

It commenced work at Trimulgherry so as to be conveniently situated near the barracks of the European Infantry and Cavalry and Artillery. Although there has always been a considerable civilian element in the Lodge, the military element has predominated. For some years it worked in a private building which is described as being ill-suited, but for the last 25 years it has held its Meetings in the Secunderabad Masonic Hall belonging to St. John, so that the original *raison d'être* of its existence has disappeared. From time to time the question of amalgamating the two Lodges has been raised, but has never found favour. There has always been a considerable amount of emulation between the two Lodges and each has had its turns of prosperity and adversity. There would seem, however, to be ample room for two Lodges to work side by side. The strength of each is now about 40 members, a very convenient number. In a large Military station like Hyderabad where there are constant removals, a Lodge must necessarily suffer many vicissitudes and as the members of one Regiment generally frequent the same Lodge, when, after a period of five years the Regiment has to leave, it often happens that a quarter or even a half of the members are obliged to resign. The next Regiment may not perhaps join the same Lodge and it will therefore take some time to recover its losses. But in the long run the proportions of membership have been fairly balanced. A little friendly emulation is not a bad thing and tends towards efficiency, and a Lodge largely recruited by Military men is apt to be stricter in its discipline and ritual.

Unfortunately the Minutes of the Lodge from its foundation in 1872 up to 1878 are not forthcoming and from June 1882 until December 1887 the Minutes appear on loose sheets, some of which are defective and others missing. Since they came into the writer's hands these loose sheets have been bound together. The book from 1888 to 1895 has lost

its cover and possibly some pages may be missing, but if so there can only be a few wanting. The covers have now been supplied. It is feared that in many Lodges not sufficient care is given to the preservation of the old records. To a certain extent this may be due to the almost annual change of Secretaries, but the duty cannot be too strongly impressed upon all Worshipful Masters that when taking over office they should make a point of seeing that all the books are complete and in good order and that those which are no longer in use are kept in some sure and safe receptacle where they are not exposed to the ravages of destructive insects.

**July 2, 1878.** This is the first Meeting of which there is any record and we find that it was attended by—

|                     |     |     |     |                          |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------|
| Wor. Bro. McCartney | ... | ... | ... | W.M.                     |
| Bro. Law            | ... | ... | ... | S.W. ( <i>pro tem.</i> ) |
| Wor. Bro. Weston    | ... | ... | ... | J.W.                     |
| Bro. McDowell       | ... | ... | ... | S.D.                     |
| „ Ardaseer          | ... | ... | ... | J.D.                     |
| „ Gwillim           | ... | ... | ... | I.G.                     |
| „ Wilkinson         | ... | ... | ... | Tyler.                   |

Bro. Sewell was the only visitor. Of these brethren no further details as regards status, etc., are available with the exception of Bro. Ardaseer, who appears as commencing his masonic career which he continued so worthily for the next 23 years in this and the other Lodges working in the Deccan. Bros. Porter and Goodwin who had been initiated were passed to the 2nd degree and Bros. Gwillim, Diggot and Wilkinson raised to the 3rd degree. Colour-Sergeant McCormick of the Fusiliers was proposed as joining member.

A jewel was presented to the late Worshipful Master, Bro. Morris.  
**Aug. 5.** Bros. Kelley and Goodwin were raised to the 3rd degree and a candidate (Colour-Sergeant Hardy, 1/21 Fusiliers) proposed and initiated at next Meeting, at which also the accounts were read and pronounced 'highly satisfactory,' but details are not given. Lieut. Carr of the Fusiliers was proposed as a candidate.

One passing (Bro. Parsgrave) and two raisings (Riddel and Hardy) were performed and Rs. 50 were voted as a donation to the wife of a Brother to enable her to join her husband in Burmah.  
**Nov. 5.**

This day having been fixed for the election, Bro. Law was elected Worshipful Master. The Lodge appears to be still weak in numbers, but is slowly progressing. The work has been cleared off.  
**Feb. 4, 1879.**

Installation day. A well-attended Meeting. The names of several of the prominent Masons of other Lodges appear as members of Mayo (Bros. M. Wilkinson, Col. Campbell, etc.); also several visitors, amongst whom Bros. Colin Johnston, Fraser, Dunlop, Hales, etc. Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston acted as Installing Master. In fact, for many years to come, this duty seems to have been regularly performed at each Lodge first by Bro. C. Johnston and afterwards by Bro. Ardaseer, who at this Meeting was appointed S.W.

The Lodge was visited by the District Grand Master of Bombay, Rt. Wor. Bro. Tyrrell Leith. Sixteen members and twelve visitors present. The 3rd degree was worked for Bro. Miller. One candidate (Bandmaster Standwick) and one joining member (Major Jazdowski, I.M.S.) were proposed and Rt. Wor. Bro. Leith was elected an Honorary member.

Three more candidates (Sergeants Medd, Killeen and Sargent) were proposed and one joining member (Sergeant Banton).

Rs. 100 voted to the Grand Lodge Fund for the maintenance of indigent children of Freemasons so as to secure a Life-Governorship for the Lodge. The usual work is being steadily carried on and the various degrees are worked without any arrears being allowed to accumulate.

Wor. Bro. Weston being about to leave the Station, the Worshipful Master informed the Lodge that he had sent him the breast-pin voted to him in consideration of his services for the last seven years (evidently Wor. Bro. Weston had been one of the founders). Bro. Weston being present returned thanks.

A donation of Rs. 50 from Rt. Wor. Bro. Leith, Grand Master of Bombay, to the Fund of Benevolence was acknowledged. Three brethren were ordered to be excluded for non-payment of dues, though they had been frequently written to. (*N.B.*—It does not appear that a formal notice to show cause had been served.)

A donation of Rs. 50 to the Bombay District Grand Lodge was acknowledged. An addition to the Bye-laws is made providing for a notice to be sent to Brethren in arrears for more than six months to 'show cause.' (*Note.*—Bro. Hardy is Secretary and the Minutes are kept in a beautiful lithographic-like hand.)

Wor. Bro. Law having been re-elected as Master was installed. Clr.-Sergt. Higgins was elected as a candidate; the 3rd degree was worked for Bro. Loney and then the

ceremony of installation was performed by Bro. Colin Johnston. On the motion of Bro. Ardaseer, £10 was voted towards the distress in Ireland and Rs. 50 to the widow of a late Brother belonging to St. John.

Notice is received that Lodge St. John proposes to open a Lodge of Instruction which can be joined gratis during the next three months after which a joining fee of Rs. 5 will be charged. The Lodge of Instruction, as seems to be always the case, had only an ephemeral existence. The first Tracing Board was given by a P. M. (Bro. Wahab), a rather unusual circumstance. The experience of the writer is that the first Tracing Board is not given once in a hundred initiations. During his experience of 42 years as a Mason, he has heard it given once in Lodge Perfect Unanimity at Madras and has himself given it twice when Worshipful Master. Probably 99 Masons out of a hundred have never heard it given at all.

May 4. Lieut. Keefe of 1/21 R. S. Fusiliers is proposed as a candidate.

Aug. 3. Lodge not opened owing to insufficient number of members.

Sept. 7. Only nine members present. Mr. Vass was initiated and Bro. Keefe passed to 2nd degree.

Oct. 5. Attendance still continues small. 2nd and 3rd degrees worked for Bros. Vass and Keefe.

Owing to the departure of the 2/16 Regiment, the number of members has been so reduced that the monthly expenditure exceeds the income by Rs. 10. It does not appear from the Minutes that the resignations have been recorded. The monthly payment of Rs. 10 to the orphanage is therefore discontinued until better times.

Three joining members proposed (Qr.-M. Tigar, Bandmaster Gooding and Clr.-Sergt. Gittins). Bro. Capt. Fox retires owing to his leaving the Station.

Dec. 7. Two candidates proposed: Lieut. Travers and Qr.-M.-Sergt. Bourne.

Jan. 4, 1881. Bro. Jazdowski (Surg.-Major) having been elected at the previous Meeting was installed as usual by Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston. A very good Meeting of members and visitors (26).

Mar. 1. A P. M. jewel was voted to the P. M., Bro. Law, for his two years' services in recognition of his having raised the Lodge from a most "distressful state," to a most "prosperous condition." The Worshipful Master was absent owing to an accident.

April 15.

Worshipful Master again absent owing to ill-health and his approaching departure for England is announced. A  
**May 3.** joining member (Bro. J. Smith) and a candidate (M. F. Burn) are proposed.

**June 7.** The funds being in a better condition, Rs. 25 donation was given to the orphanage.

Rs. 100 voted to the Bombay Masonic Institute, and a like sum  
**July 5.** to be given "a few months hence" to the Madras Institute.

The attendance continues to be small. A P. M. jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Law who officiated as Worshipful  
**Sept. 6.** Master for the rest of the year.

**Oct. 4.** Owing to the unsuitableness of the building it is proposed to migrate to the Masonic Hall in Secunderabad.

A largely-attended Meeting (chiefly of visitors) to meet the R. W. the District Grand Master, Bro. Saunders. The

**Oct. 20.** District Grand Master and his officers were received with the usual ceremonies. The District Grand Master (a former P. M. of St. John) said that he had watched the Lodge with anxiety but was gratified with the progress made and with its benevolence towards charities. He recommended a removal to the Masonic Hall as a more suitable building.

**Nov.** No Meeting as only two brethren were present.

St. John agrees to receive Mayo in the Masonic Hall (rent not stated). Two candidates (Sergt.-Major Painter and  
**Dec. 6.** Sergt.-Instr. Gormley) were proposed.

Bro. Tew 2/21 Fusiliers elected a joining member. Two new joining members (Armitage and Lapham) were proposed.

**Feb. 7, 1882.** Bro. Tigar the S.W. was elected as Worshipful Master  
**March 7.** for the next year and installed on 7th March by Wor.

Bro. C. Johnston. 11 members and eight visitors present. Bro. Capt. Crozier of 2/21 Regiment and Lieut. the Hon'ble A. S. Stewart proposed as a joining member and candidate respectively.

This Meeting was better attended than any for a very long time, 27 brethren present (15 visitors). Lieut. Hardinge was  
**April 4.** initiated and two brethren (Gormley and Painter) raised to 3rd degree. Quite a large number of joining members and candidates were proposed and it was resolved to join Lodge St. John in a Thanksgiving Service for the escape of H. M. the Queen from the attempt at assassination.

Another well-attended Meeting (16 members and 12 visitors). Seven joining members were elected and two candidates (Lieuts. May 3. Browne and Lean) were initiated, and Bro. Hardinge was passed to the 2nd degree. The Lodge is evidently making rapid strides towards prosperity. Three more joining members and one candidate (Lieut. Norman, 14th Hussars) proposed.

May 9. An Emergent Meeting to raise Bro. Hardinge.

May 16. A Lodge of Instruction in the 1st degree was held.

Three more candidates proposed and one joining member, and the Worshipful Master informed the Lodge that he had much June 6. pleasure in stating that the credit balance amounted to Rs. 450.

June 20. Another Lodge of Instruction and Bro. Keefe was passed to the 2nd degree.

These Proceedings are the last in the 1st Book, and leave the Lodge in a very remarkable state of prosperity. Unfortunately the Minutes give no actual details of the strength or of the financial condition. What a relief it would be to the historian of the future if he could only find an abstract of these figures, at least once in the year!

The Minutes are rather deficient in information, *e.g.* "a letter July 4. from Bro. W. G. Morris was read by the Secretary" is, as far as the historian is concerned, meaningless. Lieut. Rogers, R.A., Sergt. Hodgson, Clr.-Sergt. Hicks and Sergt. W. G. Burrows were elected as candidates for initiation. Bro. Lean was passed to the 2nd degree and the candidates just elected were initiated. Two more candidates and two joining members proposed.

A Lodge of Instruction nominally, but ordinary work was transacted. July 18. An initiation (Bro. Harrison) was performed, and a new candidate (Lieut. Thwaites) was proposed. It was also resolved, that "the name of Bro. Bloomfield of Lodge United Service be reported to District Grand Lodge for having received pecuniary assistance from Lodge Mayo under false pretences."

*Note.*—It is certainly irregular to transact business of this kind at a Lodge of Instruction.

At this point there is a page missing being apparently record of another Emergent Meeting at which Bro. Crozier was raised to the 3rd degree.

Aug. 1. A well-attended Meeting. 3 brethren were passed to 2nd degree.

Aug. 15. Another Lodge of Instruction. Bro. Hicks was initiated.

Lieut. Thwaites initiated and Bro. Harrison passed. A letter was read from one of the brethren "regarding Hindu brethren: "  
**Sept. 5.** its purport is not given, but it was resolved "that no notice be taken of it." The appointment of a Bro. Smith as Deacon is cancelled on a complaint laid by the Worshipful Master (what the nature of the complaint was is not stated) and another Brother (Painter) was appointed. Resolved that a Life-Governorship in the Bombay Institute be purchased by a donation of Rs. 50.

The following significant entry occurs: "Bro. Ardaseer brought to notice the present poor condition of Lodge St. John and although in possession of a suitable building, the furniture was in a bad condition and required renewal and repairs. Further, as Lodge Mayo was in affluent circumstances, since coming under the same roof, he begged the members would take into consideration all circumstances and come forward to assist St. John in obtaining the necessary furniture." It was then resolved that a Committee be appointed to enquire into the circumstances of St. John and the best means of giving assistance.

*Note.*—This incident has been noticed in the St. John record, but it does not appear that any advantage was taken of the offer.

Several members of the 14th Hussars being absent without apologies, resolved that they be written to. The Secretary Bro.  
**Oct. 3.** Browne being about to be married, it was resolved to send him a letter of congratulation.

*Note.*—Two Meetings in every month are now being held, which are called Lodges of Instruction but at which one or sometimes two degrees are worked.

A large attendance. The 3rd degree was worked for Bros.  
**Nov. 7.** Browne and Hodgson. A Resolution was passed that in future all *joining new* members should sign the Bye-laws.

*Note.*—Is this necessary? Of course in the case of candidates they are obligated to observe them, but a Brother voluntarily joining another Lodge necessarily submits himself to its rules and authority, in the same way as a man joining a club does, of course a *copy* of the Bye-laws should be given to each joining member.

Nothing of importance has happened since November. Work is being steadily carried on and the Meetings are well attended.  
**Feb. 6, 1883.** The S. W. Bro. Tew was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. This Brother had joined from Lodge Transvaal but had not produced his clearance certificate, subsequently a demand was received from Lodge Transvaal for arrears amounting to £2-11-0. Bro. Tew explained that he had tendered his resignation but had forgotten to

ask for his certificate, but was willing to deposit £2-11-0 with the Lodge under protest. This explanation was accepted and Bro. Tew was afterwards elected, but the whole proceedings seem to have been irregular. He should not have been elected in the first instance without a certificate.

March 6. It is not stated who performed the installation ceremony and the Meeting was only fairly attended.

Wor. Bro. Tigar, the I. P. M., who did such good work during the previous year is leaving for England and a vote of farewell was passed. He had already been presented with a P. M's jewel.

Oct. 6. Rs. 100 voted to the widow of the late Grand Chaplain (Bro. Johnstone). Two candidates proposed (Colr.-Sergt. Hempreed and Paymaster-Sergt. Duncan) and Bro. Gittings who has been three years a Mason complains that he has not yet got his Grand Lodge certificate. Bro. Lean's Grand Lodge certificate, being wrongly spelt was returned for correction.

Nov. 6. Two initiations of above candidates. The question was raised whether a certain Brother who would give his services as Organist could be received as a joining Brother free of charge and was referred to District Grand Lodge.

Dec. 4. Bro. Browne (Lodge Astora) elected as joining member. Colr.-Sergt. Fox proposed as a candidate. The Worshipful Master proposed that "all members who are initiated be invited as Lodge guests at the quarterly dinner" from which it would seem that it was not usual to have dinner after the Lodge. The brethren from the R. S. Fusiliers and the S. W. Borderers apologize for absence.

Jan. 1, 1884. Worshipful Master absent. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer is elected a rejoining member, but it is not apparent why or when he had resigned. An answer about the Organist was received from District Grand Lodge but the purport is not stated.

(Note.—This question seems to be surely one which the Lodge can decide for itself. If it is prepared to pay for an Organist, the pay could be credited against his joining fees and be made a book arrangement. The Lodge receives an adequate *quid pro quo*. The only question is whether he becomes a serving Brother or not.)

Feb. 5. Lodge visited by Rt. Wor. Bro. A. M. Saunders, District Grand Master and the P. Dy. Wor. Bro. Cuncliffe. The District Grand Master was received in the 3rd degree and saluted. Bros. Duncan and Fox were passed to the 2nd degree. The

District Grand Master congratulated the Lodge on having moved into the Masonic Hall since his last visit two years before, and complimented the Worshipful Master on the state of the books and returns. In reply the Worshipful Master regretted that owing to the departure of one of the regiments the Lodge had somewhat fallen off. The District Grand Master then retired. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.

**March 4.** Mr. Williamson was initiated. Bro. Hempreed was passed and the new Worshipful Master was installed. In the evening the Installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Colin Johnston.

The resignation of the District Grand Master Major Bro. Aubrey  
**June 19.** Saunders was announced owing to retirement. His brother the P.D.G.M., A. M. Saunders was nominated successor.

**Aug. 5.** Rs. 50 given as donation to the children of late Bro. Hills.

There has been a considerable reaction from the 'boom' of two  
**Oct. 7.** years ago and the Lodge has been falling off. The question was raised of amalgamation with St. John, which has already been alluded to and the Worshipful Master explained that there could be no such thing as amalgamation and that one or other of the Lodges must relinquish its Charter.

**Nov. 4.** A small Meeting. Wor. Bro. Law announced his resignation owing to the approaching departure of his Regiment (R. S. Fus.).

A letter was read from St. John asking Mayo to amalgamate.  
**Jan. 6, 1885.** There appears to have been some threat held out that in the event of the amalgamation being refused, Mayo would be asked to hold its Meetings elsewhere. There seems to have been a somewhat heated discussion, but it was resolved, that, although the Lodge was largely reduced in numbers owing to the departure of two Regiments, as it was still solvent and out of debt, the members would still continue to uphold the Charter. A plucky resolve, and amply justified by the events of after years. Five resignations from the 14th Hussars (about to leave) were recorded, but one joining Brother (Bro. Garsten) and a new candidate (Mr. Storey) were proposed.

**Feb. 3.** Bro. Vowler (S. W.) elected as Worshipful Master for the next year.

Bro. Vowler was installed by the Worshipful Master, Bro.

**March 3.** Ardaseer, who from this time forward takes a prominent place as Installing Master. After being installed the

new Worshipful Master addressed Bro. Ardaseer as follows: "You, Sir, maintained the Hiram of the Lodge when it was at its lowest ebb, and when many a skilful Captain would have been ready to faint for the safety of his ship, and although, Sir, you have not the pleasure of looking back on a year of prosperity, you have the pleasure of handing the affairs over in fair working order and its finance sound."

Wor. Bro. Ardaseer's merits as a Mason have already been dwelt upon in the history of St. John, and this is another example of the manner he served the Craft. His courage in resolving to maintain the Lodge in spite of what seemed to be an approaching collapse, cannot be too highly commended. The Meeting was well attended and several visitors were present.

A deficiency of Rs. 98-14-11 was reported in the accounts, the actual cash balance at credit being Rs. 488-6-8, which

**April 7.** is very satisfactory, considering the great reduction in numbers. A P. M. jewel was voted to Bro. Ardaseer which he amply deserved.

The death of the late Wor. Bro. Saussman was announced. Wor.

**June 2.** Bro. Tew, a late Master of the Lodge, having got into trouble, the amount against him in the books for arrears was struck off. Certain other brethren in arrears were informed that if the dues were not paid up by the next Regular Meeting, their names would be reported to Grand Lodge.

Another letter from St. John suggesting amalgamation. It was resolved to "ask the members of the Permanent Com-

**Dec. 1.** mittee of Lodge St. John to meet those of ours, to decide what steps are necessary under the present circumstances to secure the interests of both the Lodges and prevent further ruin." Bro. Ardaseer seconds the motion, "as at present we are working on the little money we have saved, as very few members have been left on the list and the subscriptions are barely sufficient to pay ordinary expenses."

Bro. Hockaday elected as Worshipful Master and Wor. Bro. Ardaseer as Treasurer. Three new joining members proposed

**Feb. 2, 1886.**

(Bros. Stockwell, Cook and Bridgewater).

Since the last Meeting four other names of would-be joining brethren had been proposed, but as their names had not been

**March 2.** proposed in open Lodge it was referred to District Grand Lodge whether they could be balloted for at this Meeting as a case of

emergency. The reply was that they could be balloted for "if all the brethren present agreed." The Lodge agreed to this and the seven joining members were all elected (the extra four were Bros. Howard, Salew, Elliot and Wilson). (*Note*.—Evidently a new Regiment has come which has supplied these recruits.)

The Lodge met in the morning, and in the evening the Installation ceremony was performed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer. Two new candidates were proposed (Sergts. Willmot and Drake, the latter of the 1/ Hants), also Bros. Heart and Bullen as joining members. The Lodge is now beginning to prosper again and the question of amalgamation appears to have been tacitly dropped.

Well attended. Three new candidates proposed (Lieut. Desraji Mod., 3rd L. C., and Sergts. Brooke and Coultate). At the  
 April 6. next Meeting in April two more candidates (Carnegie, Schoolmaster and Sergt. Santell) and one candidate (Bro. A. Pipe) were proposed. Two initiations and one passing were worked and for the next few Meetings the Lodge is busy in clearing off the various degrees that have to be conferred on the newly-joined candidates.

Two initiations and two passings were worked. The 1st tracing  
 June 1. board was given and two new candidates (Sergt. Mitchell, 14th—and Mr. Robinson, Station Butcher) were proposed.

It was resolved to refer to the District Grand Lodge the legality of  
 July 6. a collective ballot for several persons at one time. The three degrees were worked. Three new joining members proposed (Bros. Playfair, Lynch and Ward).

An Emergent Meeting to work the 1st and 2nd degrees. For the  
 July 15. next three months the Lodge is hard at work clearing off the work of bestowing degrees, generally two being worked each Meeting, and occasionally all three. New candidates and joining members are announced for each Meeting. Emergent Meetings are held for the purpose which are well attended.

2nd and 3rd degrees worked for Bros. Lambert and Howie. It was  
 Oct. 5. resolved to refer to District Grand Lodge the question whether E. As. and F. Cs. are competent to vote. It was also resolved to hold an Emergent Meeting in order to present the Worshipful Master with a jewel, cost of which was not to exceed Rs. 150. This was done at a very well attended Meeting on 14th October at which the Lodge is stated to be in a very flourishing condition, both numerically and financially. Rs. 50 voted to a Brother in distress.

Another Emergent Meeting to give the 3rd degree to Bro. Mitchell whose Regiment (14th Hussars) is about to leave. A Banquet appears to have been given to this Regiment soon after this, which, however, is merely casually alluded to in the Minutes, the date not being given. The cost however is put at Rs. 350. The Bye-laws are being revised and discussed at this and the next two Meetings.

Bro. Elliot, who had acted as Steward and received the thanks of the Lodge for his services at the Banquet, has since died and it was resolved to send a vote of condolence to his widow and to hold a Lodge of Sorrow. With the departure of the 14th Hussars there must have been many resignations, amongst them that of the Worshipful Master, but strange to say there is no mention of them in the Minutes.

Bro. Gopalaswami was raised to 3rd degree. He was questioned as to his proficiency whilst the Lodge was in the 1st degree because we read that after the questioning the Lodge "was raised from 1st to 3rd degree." It was proposed at this Meeting that the subscription be raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 and that light refreshments be provided, from which it would seem that hitherto it has not been the habit to have refreshments at all, except on big occasions. Rs. 10 monthly voted to the orphanage. No answer recorded as to the reference about E. As. and F. Cs. voting.

Jan. 28. A Lodge of Sorrow in memory of Bro. Elliot.

Bro. Paxton elected as joining member and Mr. Field was initiated.

Bro. Ardaseer who has been acting in the Chair since the departure of the Worshipful Master is again elected Worshipful Master. It was resolved to give an Installation banquet at which each member could bring a guest "regardless of sex," the tickets to cost Rs. 7 including one guest. It was also resolved to celebrate Her Majesty's Jubilee by giving a treat to the orphans at a cost of Rs. 200. This, as usual, was proposed by Bro. Ardaseer who is always foremost in proposals of this nature.

An Emergent Meeting to discuss a circular from the District Grand Master (Lord Connemara) regarding the way Her Majesty's Jubilee is to be celebrated. A subscription list was to be circulated, subscriptions not to exceed one guinea and Rs. 50 were voted from Lodge Funds. The following programme was adopted:

1. Lodge to meet 10 A.M. for transaction of business.

2. To re-assemble at 3 P.M. and to go in procession (with regalia, etc.) to the Church. After Service the treat to be given in the orphanage and the evening to be wound up by a Banquet. (The orphanage is on one side of the Lodge, and the Church about quarter of a mile on the other side.) Two representatives were chosen to meet a General Masonic Meeting called by St. John on the 19th.

Lodge met in the morning for work (1st and 2nd degrees) and again in the afternoon for the Installation. Bro. Ardaseer was  
**March 1.** simply proclaimed and then the brethren marched in procession to the Church to attend the Jubilee Service, and at 4-30 the Lodge adjourned for the School treat, and the Banquet "regardless of sex." It is to be trusted that the brethren passed a pleasant evening! They certainly deserved some relaxation from their hard work.

All three degrees were worked at this Meeting (Sergt. Mills, Bros. Jones and Field). Rs. 75 sanctioned towards the funeral  
**April 5.** expenses of the late Bro. McDonald. Three joining members received: Bros. Raghunath Prasad, Llewellyn and Rathnavelu Chari. In reply to a communication from St. John asking the Lodge to bear a third share in the cost of illuminating the building on the occasion of the Jubilee it was resolved to write declining to pay a share, as Mayo had already incurred considerable expense and had not been consulted in the matter.

*Note.*—It seems a pity that on such an occasion there had not been a combined celebration by all the Lodges. The absence of anything like combination however is a marked feature in the history of Hyderabad and Secunderabad Masonry.

Mr. Gheesta and Sergt. Buckhurst were initiated, and Bro. Mills was passed. Two new joining members (Bros. Duncan and Cook) were proposed.

The Lodge continues hard at work—new candidates being proposed at each Meeting, and Emergent Meetings are held to clear off the stress of work.

On the 24th June a Ball was held and a dispensation was obtained to appear in Masonic clothing.

**July 5.** 2nd and 3rd degrees worked for Bros. Mistri and Aubusson, and Gheesta and Buckhurst.

**Aug. 2.** Sergeant Hoston elected and initiated and Bro. Mistri was raised. Four resignations accepted.

**Nov. 1.** It was resolved to join Lodge St. John in the purchase of an organ to be the joint property of the two Lodges.

Dr. Aghoranath Chathopadhyaya was elected as a candidate. Mr.

Dec. 6. Logan Adam was initiated and the 2nd degree was worked, after which Bro. Emby was raised to the 3rd degree. The Lodge did not close until 10-15.

Dec. 13. An Emergent Meeting to initiate Dr. Aghoranath who was about to proceed to England.

Jan. 3, 1888. Three initiations (Sergeants Rushton, Clarke and Cooke) and one passing.

Five passings. Notification received of Lord Connemara's proposed appointment as District Grand Master; agreed to by the  
Feb. 7. Lodge. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer was then re-elected as Worshipful Master for the next year. This re-election for the third time during four years, shows how highly this worthy Brother stood in the estimation of the brethren. During his first year of office he bravely saved the Lodge from extinction, a reaction then set in, and it is satisfactory to find that his last two years of office should occur when the Lodge was in a flourishing condition. It was as usual decided to give a treat to the orphans and a donation of Rs. 50 for clothes.

Emergent Meeting. Two joining members elected, one of them  
Mrch 1. Jehandar Ali Khan being an E. A. from Lodge Bulweer of Constantinople. Five brethren were passed to the 2nd degree and four were raised to the 3rd degree.

A very largely attended Meeting for Wor. Bro. Ardaseer's installation. The Lodge met at 2-30 P.M. and after the Instal-  
March 6. lation ceremony marched in procession to the Church, where a Special Service was held.

Three candidates (Pestonji Jevanji, Soobanna and Sergeant Cald) were elected and initiated. Another revision of the Byelaws was agreed to. A Brother having "come into a scrape in his official capacity," Rs. 50 was voted to his wife.

July 4. The first two degrees were worked. One candidate and one joining Brother proposed.

Nothing of moment occurs during the next three or four months. There is a continual accession of candidates and joining members and the usual work of conferring degrees is carried on. Bro. Raghunath Prasad is Senior Warden and is beginning to take an active share in the working of the Lodge. Several Emergent Meetings are held in order to clear off the work.

A joining Brother, Geo. Everett, was elected by acclamation on the ground of his being a *Lewis*. (Note.—This seems to  
Nov. 7. be somewhat irregular.)



Wor. Bro. Arthur A. Mix, Worshipful  
Master, Lodge "Deccan," 1444, E.C.



Rt. Wor. Bro. Khan Bahadur  
Md. Sharf-ul-Haq, P.M. & P.G.K.B.



Wor. Bro. Pestonjee Jewanjee.



Rt. Wor. Bro. Md. Fazil Gh. Hussain Mooraj,  
R.W.M., Lodge "Hyderabad," 787, S.C.



A number of joining members are proposed at each Lodge, very largely Hindus and Mahomedans.

2nd and 3rd degrees worked, the latter by Bro. Raghunath Prasad.

Jan. 2, 1889. It was resolved to give a reception to H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught.

Two candidates were blackballed—several instances of the same kind have lately occurred. Bro. Harvey, the Junior  
Feb. 6. Warden, was elected as Worshipful Master (13 votes) as against Bro. Raghunath Prasad (12 votes). Wor. Bro. Ardaseer was elected as Treasurer.

Thirty-two members and visitors present and the Lodge met at 7 P.M.  
March 6. A candidate who had been recommended by the District Grand Secretary was blackballed. The Installation ceremony was performed by the retiring Worshipful Master, after which a cordial vote of thanks was deservedly passed to him for his eminent services.

(Note.—It is greatly to be regretted that throughout the records of this Lodge there is no Annual Report in the Minutes of the financial condition nor of the work done. Judging from the large number of candidates and joining members and the work recorded, the Lodge must at this time have been in a very flourishing condition.)

April 3. Retired Sergt.-Major Milligan was accepted as a candidate. (Note.—For the next sixteen years this Brother served as Tyler to the different institutions, first at Secunderabad and afterwards in Chudderghat.) At this Meeting after the Lodge had been closed a Brother brought to notice that he had not received his Grand Lodge certificate. As it was discovered that it had been overlooked by mistake, the Lodge was again formally re-opened, and the certificate having been presented it was formally closed for the second time.

Nothing of importance occurs during the next few months beyond the usual routine of degrees. It is to be noted that on several occasions Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad is called upon to confer the degrees on Mahomedan candidates and brethren in Urdu. It was in consequence of this that some years later a new Lodge was started in Hyderabad, the object of which was to work entirely in Urdu. The result of this experiment will be found in the notes of Scotch Masonry in Hyderabad.

Bro. Milligan is passed through his degrees and two or three joining members are elected, amongst them is Bro. Wheeler from Lodge Mandalay. The arrears are beginning to give trouble, warnings and admonitions

having failed it was at last ordered that the defaulters should be called upon to "show cause."

Sept. 4. Rs. 100 was sent to the Grand Lodge at Bombay as a contribution towards the entertainment of the Duke of Connaught.

Bro. Duncan of the Lodge having died suddenly the day before he was to have left for England it was resolved to send  
Oct. 2. a letter of condolence to his widow and a sum of Rs. 100 from Lodge Funds.

The daughter of a worthy Brother appealed for assistance towards getting her orphan son admitted to the Institute at  
Nov. 6. Poona and it was unanimously resolved that this should be done. This worthy Brother had been an exemplary Mason for many years but owing to a falling-off in business was unable to help in the education of his grandson. Sergeant Wetherall, of the 7th Hussars, a candidate for initiation having died, his name was withdrawn.

Dec. 4. It was resolved to present a watch (value £10) to the I. P. M. Bro. Ardaseer.

Wor. Bro. Harvey was re-elected Worshipful Master. A Secretary's  
Feb. 5, 1890. jewel was voted to Bro. Rand, which was fully deserved, as the Minutes are most admirably kept, very full and clear and (what is not always the case) extremely legible. For the first time an abstract of the accounts is read out and it is stated that there is a cash balance of Rs. 700 and assets of Rs. 300. It was resolved that a sum of Rs. 250 be withdrawn from Lodge Funds to meet the cost of the next Installation banquet. (*Note.*—This is a dangerous precedent to introduce. Installation banquets should be paid for by the brethren and should not be made a burden on Lodge Funds.)

*Installation.* 19 members and eight visitors present. It is to be  
March 5. remarked that for several Meetings candidates for initiation and for other degrees have continually been absent without sending any excuse. The Installation ceremony was performed by Bro. Ardaseer. Bro. Clarke tendered his resignation as he had to leave for England. It was accepted with regret and a cordial acknowledgement was made to him for his constant and steady service since his initiation.

Wor. Bro. Mehdi Khan, the Rt. Wor. Master of Lodge Morland, was  
May 7. elected as a joining member. Sergt. Harris elected as a candidate, and three resignations accepted. In their place one joining member was proposed.

**June 4.** Two joining members (Bros. G. Gill and Scott) were elected and Sergt. Harris was initiated.

**Sept. 3.** Mr. Dhunjibhoy Patell was initiated.

A small attendance. There is no business transacted and altogether for the last few months the Lodge seems to have entered into a dull period.

**Jan. 7, 1891.** Bro. Rand was elected Worshipful Master for the next year.

**Feb. 4.** Wor. Bro. Ardaseer who has been Treasurer for several years was re-elected. The watch was presented to Wor. Bro. Ardaseer, with a well-deserved eulogium for his eminent services to Masonry in general and this Lodge in particular. Two new candidates proposed (Sergts. Morris and MacFarland). A clock of the value of Rs. 50 was voted to Bro. Maddock (S.W.) who was shortly leaving for England and had therefore withdrawn his name from the candidature for the Chair.

**Emergent Meeting.** Three initiations were performed, one candidate (Sergt. Johnson) and one joining member (J. Ryan) were proposed.

**Feb. 12.** Installation. Bro. J. D. B. Gribble's name appears for the first time as a visitor of the Lodge. The Lodge opened in the morning at 7 A.M. The usual routine business was performed and three candidates were passed to the 2nd degree. In the evening the Installation ceremony was conducted in a well-attended Lodge. Sergt. Keene, R.I.F. and Taylor and White of the R. A. proposed as candidates, and three brethren (Bros. Abbott, Overton and Archer) as joining members. The clock voted to Bro. Maddock was presented to him and he said good-bye to the Lodge amidst expressions of regret for his departure.

**Mar. 4.** Three initiations should have been performed, "but, finding that the candidates were not in a fit state to go through the ordeal, being nervous, they were immediately passed out before any ceremony could be proceeded with." During an adjournment for refreshment a Committee of the Lodge resolved, that the "initiations be postponed to some future Meeting of the Lodge." After this Bros. Morris and MacFarland were raised to the 3rd degree.

**April 1.** Two of the 'nervous' candidates, Sergts. Keene and Taylor, were on this occasion successfully initiated and Bro. Pestonji was raised to the 3rd degree. Notice was received from the District Grand Lodge that Col. G. (afterwards Sir George) Moore had been appointed District Grand Master. It was resolved to increase the Lodge fees to Rs 5 monthly. Two joining members were proposed.

**May 6.**

**June 3.** The attendance is very small, only nine being present. Bro. Taylor was passed to the 2nd degree.

16 members and 5 visitors. Two degrees were worked. Sergt. Harborn was initiated, Bros. Keene and Scott passed.

**July 1.** A monthly subscription of Rs. 5 was voted to the orphanage, but a condition was made that it would be stopped "in the event of the Reverend gentleman in charge again showing indifference or want of courtesy to the Lodge as had hitherto been the case." A Jubilee jewel was voted to Wor. Bro. Harvey who was about to leave the Station, and a gratuity of Rs. 25 to the late Tyler.

2nd and 3rd degrees worked. A F. C. Brother (Lieut. Fordyce) from Lodge Astrœa proposed as joining member to be raised at the next Meeting if elected. An announcement was made of the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. Morland, Grand Master of Scottish Freemasonry in India, and a Secretary's jewel was presented to Bro. Catt.

Sergt. Lumsden was initiated and Bros. Harborn and Fordyce were raised to 3rd degree. It having been resolved at the last **Sept. 2.** Meeting that a monthly statement of the condition of the Lodge be made, the Treasurer announced that during the previous month Rs. 126 had been collected and that there was a cash balance of Rs. 242-13-7. The death of the I. G., Bro. Woolwett, was announced and it was resolved that a Funeral Service be held in his memory. Rs. 50 were voted towards a tombstone in his memory.

A Lodge of sorrow in memory of the late Bro Woolwett. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer made the oration in a very impressive speech, commencing with: "Brethren, we are called upon by the imperious mandate of the dread messenger, Death, against whose free entry within the circle of our fraternity, the barred doors and Tylers' weapon offer no impediment," etc. Further on, he compared him to a sun and a sunflower, "since he not only attracted but also followed." The worthy Brother seems to have been greatly beloved in the Lodge and Wor. Bro. Ardaseer quite rose to the occasion and was thanked for his eloquent speech.

Lieuts. Walker and Harley of the 15th Regiment were initiated and **Oct. 7.** Bro. Lumsden was passed. A contribution of Rs. 25 was made towards a fund for Wor. Bro. R. Freke Gould of the Lodge Quatuor Coronati and Rs. 25 were privately subscribed. An address was presented to Wor. Bro. Harvey who, in reply, alluded to Wor. Bro. Ardaseer as a "shining light." One joining member and one candidate announced.

Sergt.-Major Johns was elected and initiated. Bros. Harley and Walker were passed, and Bros. Lumsden and Lyon were raised. At the request of the Worshipful Master the Secretary read out certain passages from Anderson's Constitutions to the brethren passed and raised which treated of the respective duties of the Worshipful Master, the officers and the members of the Lodge.

The Lodge is hard at work conferring degrees and is well attended. Sergt. Wyllie was initiated and Bros. Walker and Johns were raised. It was resolved on a letter from Lodge Morland to subscribe Rs. 50 towards a Masonic Ball. For the last two Meetings the Lodge was worked until 10 P.M.

One passing (Bro. Wyllie). Bro. Gheesta was elected as Worshipful Master and Wor. Bro. Ardaseer as Treasurer. In announcing the death of H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence, the Worshipful Master read an account of his life and ordered that the Lodge be put into mourning for three months, and a vote of condolence was ordered to be sent through the District Grand Master of Madras.

Installation Day. Lodge met at 6-30 A.M. There should have been an initiation and a passing, but neither of the candidates were present. A complaint was read from Bro. Causey, who, as a candidate for the Chair at the election, had been beaten by one vote, that several members in arrears of over three months had been allowed to vote and accordingly he tendered his resignation. The Worshipful Master remarked that it would have been better if the Brother had pointed this out at the time. On receiving the complaint it had first of all been decided by the Permanent Committee to call an Emergent Meeting for a new election, but Bro. Causey having withdrawn his complaint and acquiesced in the election, the matter had been allowed to drop; but as Bro. Causey's company was shortly leaving he begged to be allowed to resign.

*Note.*—Would it not be advisable to have a standing order in every Lodge that at the commencement of the proceedings, the Secretary should always read out the names of those brethren who are debarred from voting? It is probable that at first this would give rise to some angry feelings, but if the rule were impartially carried out it would have a good effect in the end. Arrears are the curse of Indian Lodges and the writer has been present at a Lodge where the arrears amounted to nearly Rs. 4,000 but at which members and officers of the Lodge who had paid nothing for several years and some of whose arrears amounted to over Rs. 400 were allowed to take part in the proceedings and to vote as if everything was in order.

In the evening at a well-attended Meeting, the Worshipful Master-Elect was installed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer in an unusually impressive manner.

April 6. Sergt. Hands proposed as a joining member, and Sergt. J. Carter as a candidate.

The Tyler (Bro. Milligan) resigns his office as caterer owing to the losses he has sustained thereby. Lieut. Pirie, Sergt. May 4. Giller, Lieut. Browne, and Sergt. Morner proposed as candidates and Bro. Smith as a joining member.

Lieut. Pirie withdraws his name as a candidate, and Lieut. Browne June 1. asks that his should be kept in abeyance. Four candidates, Gustadji Darasha, Carbin, Giller and Morner, were initiated and Bros. Burton and Cooke raised to 3rd degree. Wor. Bro. Ardaseer points out that Rs. 5 subscription is not sufficient to meet the charges of dinner and refreshment and proposes that the old system of Rs. 3 for subscription and payment for dinner and refreshments be reverted to. The accounts are evidently in a very unsatisfactory state. On the 1st of May, they showed a

|                  |     |     |     |         |   |   |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|---|
| Debit balance of | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 285 | 9 | 4 |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|---|

|                            |     |         |   |   |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|---|---|
| The Lodge collections were | ... | Rs. 475 | 9 | 3 |
|----------------------------|-----|---------|---|---|

|             |     |     |     |       |    |   |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|---|
| Expenditure | ... | ... | ... | „ 101 | 15 | 8 |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|---|

|                     |    |   |   |
|---------------------|----|---|---|
| Balance credit, Rs. | 88 | 0 | 3 |
|---------------------|----|---|---|

The three E. A's were passed to the 2nd degree. The question of catering was discussed and the difficulty of recovering July 4. the amount. It was suggested that a joint Committee be formed of the various Lodges, and that a caterer be entertained on Rs. 20 monthly and that only those present for dinner should be charged.

*Note.*—The difficulty of collecting caterer's fees, if not made Lodge dues, is always occurring in the various Lodges. If a bare subscription is charged so as to leave a small surplus after payment of Grand Lodge fees and establishment whilst refreshments and dinners are charged for there is often a tendency of brethren to absent themselves from the dinners and so to detract from the social part of the evening. On the other hand, to make the subscription include the charge for dinners, etc., whether members attend or not is rather hard, especially in a Military Station where a large percentage of members are often absent on duty. The best plan seems to be to arrange the subscription so as to meet the average number of dining members, to make *all* refreshments chargeable and to include all charges as Lodge dues.

Notice received at this Meeting that a new Lodge "Hyderabad" under the Scotch Constitution has been formed in order to work in Urdu. Bro. Capt. Coleman and Bro. Sergt. Poulter proposed as joining members, Sub-Conductor Francke and Corpl. Sykes proposed as candidates and Bro. Iyengar (a vague name), of Lodge Deccan, as a joining member. Credit balance Rs. 49-14-7.

Three joining members elected and also two candidates who were initiated. Three brethren were raised to the 3rd degree.  
**Aug. 3.** Some discussion followed regarding the engagement by Lodge St. John of a butler which was deemed inconsistent with the arrangement previously arrived at and the Lodge resolved to make its own arrangements.

*Note.*—The want of cordial co-operation in these domestic affairs of the different Lodges is to be regretted.

The usual routine and degree work was performed. Bro. Wilmott, the Secretary, gave notice of his departure and a vote of thanks was passed to him for his zeal in the performance of his duties. The departure of Bros. Craig and Lumsden was also announced. Credit balance, Rs. 158-15-7.

Corpls. Williams and Potter were initiated. Bro. Gribble's name appears at this Meeting as a member having been elected at the previous Meeting. Correspondence with Lodge St. John was read in which the caterer employed by Mayo was objected to. Credit balance, Rs. 225-10-6.

**Nov. 2.** A Brother residing in Chudderghat is allowed to keep his name on the absent list.

**Dec. 17.** Bros. Col. Heathcote, Hampden and Jones elected as joining members. Credit balance, Rs. 218-2-6.

**Jan. 21, 1893.** Bros. Potter and Williams raised to 3rd degree. Credit balance, Rs. 195-15-0.

**Feb. 18.** Bro. Robinson elected as Worshipful Master and Wor. Bro. Ardaseer as Treasurer. Credit balance, Rs. 224-6-0.

Installation. Lodge opened at 7-30 A.M. Bro. Davis elected as a joining member and Corpl. Carter, R.A., was initiated.  
**March 18.** In the evening there was a largely-attended Meeting for the ceremony which as usual was performed by Bro. Ardaseer. Wor. Bro. Gribble was appointed S. W., this being the first office he had held in an English Lodge, although he had been initiated in 1865 and was

then in his second year of office as Right Worshipful Master of Morland. Rs. 50 were voted to the Masonic Institute and a P. M. jewel to Wor. Bro. Gheesta. Credit balance, Rs. 262-11-6.

2nd degree worked. Bro. Boales elected as joining member. Wor.

Bro. Gheesta presented a Secretary's jewel to Wor. Bro.

**April 15.** Robinson and, at the same time, remarked that Lodge Mayo stood first in the Presidency list for ceremonies performed during the last year.

Colr.-Sergt. Garside was initiated. A Jewel was voted to Wor.

**June 17.** Bro. Ardaseer for his general services towards Masonry, to be paid for by private subscriptions not to exceed Rs. 2, and that other Lodges be asked to join. Cash balance, Rs. 93.

A P. M. jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Gheesta. He had found the Lodge in debt to the amount of Rs. 500 and when he

**July 15.** handed over charge there were Rs. 300 to its credit.

Sergt. Muney initiated and Bro. Garside raised to the 3rd degree.

**Aug. 19.**

Only ordinary work has been done during the last two Meetings, the 2nd and 3rd degrees being worked for Bro. Muney.

**Nov. 18.** At this Meeting Sergt. Walters was initiated. The statement of the financial condition appears to have been discontinued.

One joining member elected (Bro. J. Cross) and Bro. Walter was passed to 2nd degree. Rs. 25 voted to the orphanages as a Christmas present.

**Dec. 14.**

Emergent Meeting. Bro. Walter was raised to 3rd degree.

**Feb. 7, 1894.**

Sergt. Grimwood initiated. Bro. Tocher, the J.W., was elected as Worshipful Master, the S. W. having withdrawn.

**Feb. 17.**

Installation. Lodge opened at 8-45 A.M. It was resolved to raise the subscription to Rs. 5 to include dining fees, aerated waters and cigars, but all liquors to be paid for.

**March 17.**

*Note.*—From long experience this arrangement seems to be the best.

Bro. Bishop elected as a candidate, but not being present was not initiated. Bro. Skirving elected as a joining member. Bro. Grimwood passed to 2nd degree. In the evening Bro. Tocher was installed as Worshipful Master, Bro. Ardaseer as Treasurer and Bro. Templeton as J. W. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Ardaseer. Four candidates were proposed.

**April 21.** Six candidates (Schoolmaster Irving, Colr.-Sergt. Sprent, Sergt. Lovering, Sergt. Felstead, Colr.-Sergt. Peacock and Sergt. Bishop) were initiated.

The next Meetings were occupied by conferring the 2nd and 3rd degrees on these candidates. Bros. Day and Marden were elected as joining members, and a "Beehive" jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Ardaseer from Lodges Mayo and Morland and a P. M. jewel was given to Wor. Bro. Robinson.

**Sept. 19.** Bros. Mustafa Ali and E. A. Evans were elected as joining members, Sergt. Calvert was elected and initiated and Bro. Evans was passed to the 2nd degree.

**Oct. 17.** Sergt. Norman (21st Hussars) initiated, Bro. White was passed and Bro. Evans should have been raised, but as he was not properly prepared for examination in proficiency the ceremony was not performed.

**Nov. 21.** Four candidates were initiated (Sergts. Norman, Jones, Keough and Pallent).

The next Meetings were occupied by conferring the 2nd and 3rd degrees on these candidates and on Bro. Calvert.

Three brethren, Wor. Bros. Gribble, Stevens and Bro. Moinudeen, visited the Lodge as representatives of the Grand Lodge of Scotland and were received with honours. **Jan. 26, 1895.** Wor. Bro. Lawrence, Grand Chaplain and District Grand Warden, was then received as Representative of the District Grand Lodge of Madras, accompanied by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer, P.D.S.W. Wor. Bro. Lawrence took charge of the Lodge in the usual manner and returned the Hiram. The 3rd degree was given to Bros. Norman, Keough, Jones and Pallent. The Worshipful Master then gave a statement of the condition of the Lodge for the information of the visiting member of Grand Lodge. When he took over charge there were 35 members. Since then there had been 12 initiations, 13 passings, 13 raisings and 4 affiliations. After deducting resignations the total number on the books was 36. As regards finances at the opening of his term of office, the books showed a

|                 |     |     |            |
|-----------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Cash balance of | ... | ... | Rs. 6 14 8 |
| Outstandings    | ... | ... | „ 224 11 0 |

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Rs. 231 9 8

At the time of inspection there was a

|                 |     |     |             |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| cash balance of | ... | ... | Rs. 365 5 5 |
| Outstandings    | ... | ... | „ 299 0 0   |

with no liabilities.

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Rs. 664 5 5

Wor. Bro. Lawrence then highly commended the way he had seen the sublime degree worked that evening, and also of the smart manner in which all the officers had answered to signs, signals, etc. He praised the book-keeping and the increasing prosperity of the Lodge, but drew attention to a carelessness in signing the attendance book. [Altogether a very satisfactory inspection and Wor. Bro. Tocher, the Worshipful Master, deserved all the credit that was given to him.]

A well-attended Meeting, as they have been for some time past. Feb. 20. Serpts. Weston and Ponsford were initiated. At the election for Worshipful Master, there were nine votes for Bro. Jones, nine votes for Bro. Templeton and two votes for Bro. Preston. The Worshipful Master then gave his casting vote for Bro. Templeton and Bro. Ardaseer was re-elected Treasurer by a large majority. Bro. Jones, against whom the Worshipful Master's casting vote had been given, protested on the ground that as there was a third candidate for the Chair with only two or three votes, a new election should have been held. The Worshipful Master (very rightly) disallowed the objection, but promised to forward the protest to District Grand Lodge if made through the proper channel. Several joining members and candidates were then proposed, and the Worshipful Master having been asked to retire, a P. M's jewel was voted to him, which seems to have been fully deserved.

*Note.*—These Proceedings close Book No. 3 of Lodge Mayo.

During the next two years (until the end of 1896) the Lodge was ruled by Wor. Bro. Templeton who was during 1895 also Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Morland. Certain events happened in the latter Lodge towards the end of 1895 in which the writer of these annals was very largely concerned. These events were of a most painful character and they led to other events in Lodge Mayo at which the writer—no longer being a member of the Lodge—was not present. The matter was taken up by the *Madras Masonic Review*, and created at the time a considerable amount of talk. The personal character of another Brother who has since attained high Masonic honours in Madras was also involved and as most of the parties concerned are still living, it would be manifestly improper for the writer to dwell upon an incident in which he was largely concerned and in the discussion of which by him the other parties to the quarrel would be left without a voice in reply. I shall therefore leave out these two years, both in the annals of Mayo and of Morland. They are not edifying masonically, and no good purpose can be served by reviving them now. The details are recorded at considerable length in the Minute books of the two different Lodges and may perhaps excite the curiosity of some future historian. I may

however be permitted to remark that from a Masonic point of view the incident terminated happily and a breach, which under ordinary, worldly, circumstances, could never have been repaired was, satisfactorily filled in. In one case the assailant made the first overture for reconciliation which were at once accepted; in the other, the assailed himself offered apologies for the unmasonic feelings that, for several years, had actuated him and filled his mind. This overture was also accepted in a worthy spirit, and it may be recorded that at the present moment the chief actors in the deplorable incident are on terms of the utmost good fellowship. The whole incident is one that teaches us how necessary it is to "moderate the passions, the excess of which deform and disfigure the soul," but it also teaches us that to those to whom repentance comes, Masonry provides the means of building a bridge over, what would otherwise be, an insurpassable gulf.

During the last few months of Wor. Bro. Templeton's period of office his name does not appear as having attended the Lodge  
**March 20, 1897.** and in February 1897 Wor. Bro. Battenberg was elected as Master and was installed by Wor. Bro. Gould on the 20th March, 1897. The attendance was not a large one and the Lodge, both as regards strength and finances, does not seem to have been in a flourishing condition. It should however be recorded that during Wor. Bro. Templeton's period of office a very large sum was spent in charities and at the close no less than nine Chairs had been endowed with a vote each to the Madras Masonic Institute. Moreover at a visit by the District Grand Master on the 26th June, 1896, a very high encomium was passed upon the admirable way in which the books had been kept and the general condition of the Lodge. Financially however at that time the Lodge was not in a healthy state. The cash balance was only Rs. 19-4-0; Rs. 516-12-0 were due by members, and the liabilities amounted to Rs. 683-14-11. Of the amount due, nearly Rs. 300 had subsequently to be written off as bad. The circumstances therefore under which Wor. Bro. Battenberg took over the Lodge in March 1897 were not encouraging. These details are necessary for the history of the Lodge. For the second time since its foundation it was at a very low ebb, but subsequent events showed the marvellous recuperative power in Masonry, and before three years had passed the Lodge regained its former position which it has continued to hold until the present day.

Two joining members (Bros. Ardaseer Pilcher and Thomas Cook) were elected, also three candidates for initiation (Vickery, W. Cook and Sergt. Eddington). The funds of the Lodge did not permit of its joining the other Lodges in a festival on account of

Her Majesty's Jubilee, a circumstance which with their generous traditions must have been very galling to the members of the Lodge.

Three passings took place, of the two elected and initiated at the last  
 July 23. Meeting and of Bro. Battenberg, son of the Worshipful  
 Master. Sergt. Eddington was initiated.

The report of the Permanent Committee showed cash in hand  
 Augt. 18. Rs. 9-13-7 against a debit balance of Rs. 424-11-11;  
 no less than Rs. 464-2-0 having been struck off as  
 irrecoverable. Mr. Metzker was elected for initiation and Bro.  
 Eddington was raised to the 2nd degree.

Sept. 15. Bros. Vickery and Cook raised to 3rd degree.

Oct. 20. Bros. Battenberg and Eddington raised to 3rd degree.  
 One candidate (Sergt. Clark) proposed.

Nothing of importance occurred during the next two months. The attendance continues small. Two candidates were proposed and elected (Dorabji Dittia and Sergt. Philips) and two joining members.

In January, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge accompanied by two other brethren called upon Wor. Bro. Gribble and asked him if he would rejoin the Lodge with the view of being elected to the Chair in the following month. Bro. Gribble replied that he would gladly help in resuscitating the Lodge but would only stand for the Chair if it was the wish of the large majority of the members as he did not wish to stand in anybody's way. He had not been proposed at the December Meeting but it was stated that his name would be entered in the January Summons for ballot. This was done, and he was duly elected. Sergt. Philips was also elected and initiated. The condition of the Lodge has been slowly improving and the debit balance has been reduced to Rs. 157-9-4.

Bros. Clarke and Dittia passed to 2nd degree. Wor. Bro. Gribble  
 Feb. 16, 1898. was elected Master by 14 votes to two, but the election  
 was objected to by Bro. Jones (the other candidate for  
 the chair) on the ground that Bro. Gribble had not been openly proposed  
 in Lodge and that the only notice given was the insertion of his name  
 in the Summons. This objection was overruled by the Worshipful  
 Master on the ground that Bro. Gribble had been duly proposed and  
 seconded, his name entered in the Summons and duly elected in open  
 Lodge. Bro. Jones signified his intention of appealing to the District  
 Grand Lodge, but if he did so the appeal must have been rejected as  
 nothing appears in the subsequent transactions.

Bro. Milligan retires from his post of Tyler in order to take up an appointment in the Nizam's troops. A P. M. jewel was voted to Bro. Battenberg which he fully deserved. Although it cannot be said that the year had been one of brilliant success, this worthy Brother left the Lodge in a far better position than he found it. There had been a large debit balance and the numbers were so reduced that it was difficult to form a quorum. When he gave over the Lodge the debt had been paid off with the exception of Rs. 50 and the numbers were considerably increased.

An Emergent Meeting to clear off arrears of work. Dr. Popat was initiated, Bro. Philips passed and Bros. Clarke and Dittia raised to 3rd degree, the latter ceremony being performed by the Worshipful Master-elect.

Installation night 16 members and six visitors—the best attended Meeting for some time. Wor. Bro. Gribble was installed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer. This was the first time this Brother had been placed in an English Chair although in 1892 and 93 he had been Worshipful Master of Lodge Morland for two years consecutively and had been a member of most of the other Lodges at various times. A new candidate (Corpl. Heriot) was proposed.

15 members and five visitors present. One joining member (Sergt. Lovegrove) elected and Corpl. Heriot initiated. A joining member (Sergt. Garlick) proposed and a P. M. jewel was presented to Wor. Bro. Battenberg. Sergt. Day proposed as a candidate and Bro. Smith and Whiting as joining members.

May. No Meeting owing to the hot weather.

The Worshipful Master gave a short lecture on the hidden mysteries of nature and science. Bros. Heriot and Popat were passed and Sergt. Day was initiated. One new joining member (Bro Mehta) and one candidate, Mr. Gregory, proposed

The Meetings continue to be well attended, and at each either one or two degrees are worked. A portion of the work in each degree, such as the charge, address, etc., is entrusted to one or other of the officers. In July the cash balance has increased to Rs. 298 and lectures are given by the Worshipful Master from time to time.

The Rev. Mr. Breay, Prof. Andrews, Mr. G. G. Wright (D.S.M.) and Mr. Metzker were elected as candidates, and the two latter were initiated. Bro. Wright (late I.-G., Police, Berar) proposed as joining member and Sergt. Plant as a

candidate. The cash balance has risen to Rs. 376-10-0 and the total assets to Rs. 508-15-0.

Bro. Day was raised to 3rd degree; Rev. Breay and Sergt. Plant were initiated, and Bros. Wright and Metzker were  
 Nov. 16. passed to 2nd degree. Two candidates proposed (Mr. Schultz and Mr. McCrae) and six joining members (Bros. Morris, Hackfield, Outlaw, French, Glendining and Capt. Davoren).

2nd and 3rd degrees worked. The usual subscriptions to the orphanages are now being paid (Rs. 15 and 10). Lieut.  
 Dec. 21. Sharp of 11. N. I. proposed as a candidate. For the last few months the Meetings seldom close before 10 P.M. and sometimes later.

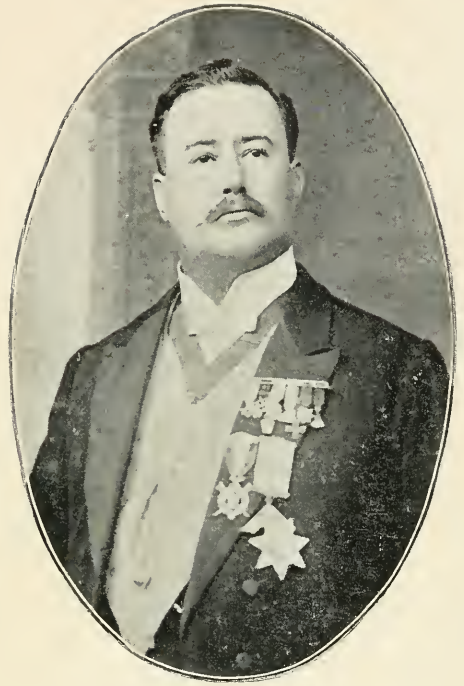
1st and 2nd degrees worked for Lieut. Sharp and Bro. Breay. A communication was received from Lodge Three Swords and  
 Jan. 18, 1899. Astora in Dresden, Germany, informing the Worshipful Master that a relief had been given to the widow of a distressed German Mason whose claims the Worshipful Master had brought to notice. A vote of thanks to the German Lodge was passed. The cash balance has risen to Rs. 719-15-3 and there are outstandings for Rs. 554-10-0 of which Rs. 73-2-0 were ordered to be struck off.

Bro. Coulter, the S.W., was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. 2nd and 3rd degrees worked. Capt. Johnston  
 Feb. 14. and Sergt. Clifford proposed as candidates. Bros. Capt. Clapham, Col. Heathcote and Major Stoney proposed as joining members.

The Lodge opened at 4 P.M. in the afternoon with 22 members and 13 visitors. An initiation and 2nd degree were  
 March 13. worked and at 7 P.M. the installation ceremony was performed by the Worshipful Master. After this the out-going Worshipful Master gave a brief abstract of the year's work. He had found it Rs. 50 in debt and at the present moment there were Rs. 622 in the Bank and collected that evening, and good outstandings Rs. 709. There had been 17 new joining members, 12 initiations, 7 passings and 10 raisings at 11 Regular Meetings. The year's results form a record in the history of the Lodge and are only approached by those of Wor. Bro. Tocher in 1894-95. The writer of these annals takes this opportunity of thanking the brethren for their cordial support to which the success must be attributed. Chief amongst those from whom he received help was Bro. Capt. Davoren who in 1900 was elected Worshipful Master. When the writer gave over charge Lodge Mayo occupied the senior position in the Station as regards numbers and



A. Outlaw, P.M.



J. P. Davies, P.M.



W. Hamilton, P.M.



Bezonji Aderji, P.S.W.



work. Its character had also somewhat changed; although still essentially a Military Lodge it contained a much larger proportion of commissioned officers than before. But in a Station like Secunderabad, as has already been pointed out, every Lodge is liable to these fluctuations.

At the next Permanent Committee the actual credit was Government Rs. 1,009, with however Rs. 709 due in the subscription book, of which a large proportion was due for the joining fees of the members just proposed. Opportunity was taken of these good results to at once invest Rs. 500 in Government Paper and the future transactions of the Lodge were changed from H. S. to Government Rupees, which made a difference of about 20 % in the totals of the cash balances.

A P. M. jewel was voted to the retiring Worshipful Master.

The accession of Bro. Col. Heathcote has proved very advantageous to the Lodge. An old P. M. and of high social rank  
 April 19. he was (and, I am glad to say, still is) an example of what a good Mason should be. Actuated by no personal motives he worked simply for the good of the Craft. In combination with the Rev. Bro. Breay he compiled and largely composed an excellent musical ritual, which he and the writer published and presented to the Lodge. The ritual has since been adopted by at least one other Lodge working in Southern India.

A sum of Rs. 500 was directed to be invested in Government Paper, so that the Lodge is now in a very flourishing state, with a good working cash balance in hand and a neat egg saved up for a rainy day. The 2nd degree was worked for Bro. Clifford and Bro. Major Moore proposed as a joining member.

Bro. Hewitt admitted as a joining member. There being no regular work, Wor. Bro. Gribble delivered a lecture on the  
 June 21. ancient landmarks. The Musical ritual was adopted.

Sergt. Fairbairn initiated. Some of the Lodges working in Hyderabad having resolved to present an address to H. H. the  
 July 19. Nizam on his birthday celebration, Lodge Mayo was asked to co-operate, but declined on the ground that H. H. was not a Mason. Seven years afterwards on the occasion of a similar demonstration this decision was reversed and all the six Lodges working in H. H's Dominions presented a joint address. An account of this will be found in the concluding remarks at the end of the annals.

Two brethren excluded for non-payment of arrears and four others were called upon to show cause. A wedding present  
 Augt. 16, 1899. given to Bro. G. G. Wright on occasion of his marriage

to the late Worshipful Master's daughter, by private subscription, was acknowledged with thanks.

Rev. J Philip and Mr. W. H. Ruddle elected as candidates. The latter was initiated; Bro. Fairbairn was passed. Rs. 23  
 Sept. 20. collected after dinner at the previous Meeting was acknowledged by District Grand Lodge on account of the Masonic Institution.

The death of Bro. *Ardaseer Pilcher* was announced and a vote of condolence was sent to the family mentioning the "profound sorrow" with which the intelligence had been received. A full notice of this most worthy Brother's career having been given in the history of St. John, I need not further allude to it here, beyond repeating the fact that he was one of the most exemplary Masons produced in the District. It was mainly due to this Brother that at a critical time of its career Lodge Mayo was saved from extinction.

A jewel and framed photograph was presented to Wor. Bro. Gribble who, when thanking for the same, promised to give a copy to the Lodge. Two joining members elected, Bros. Tew and Woledge. A difference between two of the brethren was referred to the Permanent Committee to be settled at the next Meeting before tying. Bro. Ruddle was passed to 2nd degree.

The difference alluded to in the last para. is reported as having been amicably settled. Bro. Colr.-Sergt. Kinvest, of the  
 Nov. 15. Cheshires, was elected as a joining member. Bro. Lieut. Sharp was excluded for non-payment of arrears and the fact was communicated to Lodge Mandalay. Bro. Ruddle was raised to the 3rd degree.

Bro. Kenning's estimate for the cost of publishing the Musical Ritual amounts to £35 and further negotiations were  
 Dec. 20. resolved upon. Several of the brethren being employed at the front in South Africa, a letter wishing them a Happy Christmas and good luck was ordered to be sent. The Lodge contributed Rs. 25 to the widows and orphans of the South African War and a private list was also circulated. Mr. Patch (Examiner of Accounts) Conductor J. Elder and Lieut. W. E. Pye elected as candidates and the two former were initiated.

From the Permanent Committee's report it appears that the credit balance has somewhat declined. The assets amounted to Rs. 1,237-3-8 including Rs. 500 in Government Paper and the liabilities to Rs. 523-4-2.

King & Co. acknowledge receipt of Rs. 161-12-0 as contribution to the War Fund. Wor. Bro. Davoren was elected as  
**Feb. 21, 1900.** Worshipful Master by acclamation, all the other brethren qualified having withdrawn. (N.B.—The writer is doubtful as to the regularity of this, since in the opening address to the Worshipful Master-elect the words are “he must have been duly balloted for and elected by the Masters, Wardens and Fellows in open Lodge.”)

Installation night. Bros. Patch, Elder and Welchman were passed to 2nd degree. Wro. Bro. Davoren was installed as  
**Feb. 21.** Worshipful Master by the I. P. M., Bro. Gribble. The usual jewel was voted to the retiring Master. Lieut. Clarke proposed as a joining member.

The Worshipful Master has been transferred to Ootacamund and  
**April 18.** Wor. Bro. Gribble presides. 3rd degree worked for Bros. Patch, Elder and Welchman. Rs. 15 subscribed to the Famine Fund. Wor. Bro. Tocher who had been shut up in Lady-smith writes to thank the brethren for having thought of him.

From the Permanent Committee's report the credit balance, including the money invested, is Rs. 761-15-0 after deducting liabilities Rs. 35-3-0. The outstanding dues are reduced to Rs. 267-6-0 but a large amount has been struck off as bad debts.

Bros. Norris and Hamilton elected as joining members. Mr. Frankel and Colr.-Sergt. Hallis proposed as candidates, Capt.  
**May 16.** Colquhoun as joining member.

Messrs. Frankel and Worgan initiated, and Sergt. Hallis and Capt. Clarke elected as candidates. Rs. 20 sent to Civil Orphan  
**June 20.** Asylum, Madras.

Sergts. Atkinson and Crocket of the Lincolns elected and initiated. The 2nd degree was worked for  
**July 18** Bros. Frankel and Worgan.

Sergts. Wood and Thompson of the Lincolns elected as candidates. Sergt. Hallis was initiated and Bro. Worgan raised to the 3rd degree.  
**Augt. 15.**

The Lodge funds are improving.

|                            |     |     |     |     |       |    |    |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|----|----|
| Cash in Bank               | ... | ... | ... | Rs. | 507   | 10 | 10 |
| Government Promissory Note | ... | ... | ... | „   | 500   | 0  | 0  |
| In hand                    | ... | ... | ... | „   | 0     | 11 | 0  |
|                            |     |     |     | Rs. | 1,008 | 6  | 10 |
| Outstanding accounts       | ... | ... | ... | „   | 303   | 13 | 0  |
|                            |     |     |     | Rs. | 1,312 | 3  | 10 |

Liabilities not mentioned.

Nothing of importance occurs during the next few Meetings beyond clearing off degrees.

Lieut. Cox initiated and Bro. Thompson raised to 3rd degree. Cash balance has increased to Rs. 1,293-15-5 and outstanding dues reduced to Rs. 270-9-6. Total Rs. 1,563-8-11. Rs. 30 a month given during the illness of a Brother's widow.

Dec. 19. Death of Bro. Tew announced and Lodge goes into mourning for two months.

Jan. 16, 1901. A misunderstanding appears to have arisen between Mavo and St. John in the previous October. The details are not given in the Minutes, but at this Meeting a very frank and generous letter of apology is read from St. John, regretting that the misunderstanding should have arisen, and hoping that the Lodges would continue to work hand in hand and that as in the past Lodge Mayo would always respond to any appeal from Lodge St. John.

This letter was accepted in the same fraternal spirit with a unanimous vote, and the incident—whatever it may have been—closed, as all such should, in a masonic manner.

Feb. 20. The J. W. Bro. Outlaw was elected Worshipful Master. Bros. Woods and Thomson raised to the 3rd degree. Bro. Gribble elected Treasurer.

The Lodge is now in a strong financial position. Rs. 1,437 of which outstanding dues amount to Rs. 276-15-6. It is resolved to invest Rs. 250 more in Government paper.

March 20. *Installation.* Bro. D'Souza appointed Tyler. Sergts. Chinery, Fraser and Hill elected as candidates and initiated. Bro. Outlaw was then installed by Wor. Bro. Daw.

April 1. Six resignations are handed in and accepted. The three initiates of the last Meeting were passed to 2nd degree. An appeal was received for help to a former District Grand Master and also a P. M. of one of the Secunderabad Lodges, and a sum of £2 was voted.

May 15. Sergt. W. H. Tripp, R.A., proposed as candidate. Bro. Hamilton announces his approaching departure.

June 19. The Worshipful Master announced his departure, having been transferred to Bangalore. [This is the second year in succession that the Worshipful Master has had to leave the Lodge immediately after his installation. It is always unfortunate for a Lodge to be "orphaned" in this manner, and it invariably suffers in consequence.] Wor. Bro. Gribble who has been eight months in England rejoins and is elected Treasurer.

Lieut. Hamilton and Sergt. Tripp were initiated. Wor. Bro. Davoren's name re-appears as a member. Mr. Macintosh of the Bank of Bengal and Sergt. Duffield proposed as candidates and two new joining members, Bros. Smith and Marcar (latter as Organist).

Mr. Macintosh and Major Thwaytes and Sergt. Duffield elected as candidates. Bros. Smith and Col. Thompson elected as joining members. Bros. Tripp and Hamilton (Lieut.) passed to 2nd degree. Condr. Radford, Sergt. Baker and Lieut. Aimes proposed as candidates.

A well-attended Meeting but strange to say the names of General Wodehouse, Capt. Ross Price and Lieut. Harris are entered in the Minutes as *non-Masonic guests*. This must be a mistake. They were probably present at the dinner afterwards, and the zealous Secretary wished to retain their names on record. All three degrees were worked so that the dinner must have been a late one.

The S. W. (Bro. Ruddle) in charge. Lieuts. Wormald and Breslin elected as candidates and Wor. Bro. Grove-White as a joining member. The two former were initiated.

Bro. Gribble in the chair. It was resolved to give a Masonic dance and in accordance with the proposal of the Wor. Bro. in the Chair, who was also Treasurer, Rs. 200 was voted to District Grand Lodge and Rs. 150 as charity amongst the orphanages. 3rd Degree worked for Bros. Macintosh and Radford. Sergt.-Major Masson proposed as candidate and Bro. Stanchard and Dunkley as joining members.

Bro. Gribble again in the chair. During the initiation of Sergt.-Major Masson it was found that he was not properly prepared owing to there being a ring on his finger. The I. G. was reprimanded and the candidate was sent back but as the ring could not be removed the ceremony was adjourned until it should be removed by a surgical operation or otherwise. Bro. Major Thwaytes was raised to 3rd degree. It was resolved to give a Masonic dance.

Wor. Bro. Davoren in the chair. Sergt.-Major Masson initiated and Bros. Wormald and Breslin passed to the 2nd degree. Bro. Norris elected as Worshipful Master and Bro. Gribble re-elected Treasurer.

Bro. Gribble installed Bro. Norris in the chair. It was decided to have a photograph taken of Bro. Davoren and to give a Secretary's jewel to Bro. Metzker.

The Ball does not appear to have been a financial success and a considerable sum (Rs. 250) had to be given from Lodge  
**April 15.** Funds. 2nd degree worked. Two candidates and two joining members proposed. Bros. Patch, Thwaytes and Crockett resigned. Sergts. Sharp and Rawson initiated. (*Note.*—In many of the Minutes there are blank spaces left, showing some unrecorded Resolution. These omissions should have been noticed by the confirming officer.) Bros. Henderson, Sharp and Rawson passed to 2nd degree at next meeting.

Bro. Fagan passed to 2nd degree and Lieut. Friar was initiated.  
**July 15.** Bros. Sharp, Henderson and Rawson raised to 3rd degree. A Brother being in distress his dues were paid from Lodge Funds and he was granted a Clearance Certificate. Bros. Hext and Bliss proposed as joining members.

Bro. Davoren in the chair. Lieut. Marsh initiated. A list was  
**Augt. 19.** circulated for subscriptions to meet the deficiency in the Ball Account. There had been a joint Banquet with Lodges Deccan, Hyderabad and Morland to commemorate the King-Emperor's Coronation.

Bro. Gribble in the chair. Bro. Templeton is present and after an  
**Sept.** explanation from him it is resolved to re-admit him as a member and the amount to be paid be settled by the Permanent Committee.

The Worshipful Master appears to have left the Station and for the remainder of the year the chair is filled either by Bro. Gribble or Bro. Davoren. Bro. Marsh raised to 3rd degree. Nothing of importance occurs during the next two Meetings. The proposal to re-admit Bro. Templeton is withdrawn.

Bro. Davoren in the chair. Bro. Burton elected as joining member.  
**Dec. 16.** Mr. Lake (A.V.D.) was initiated, and Bro. Baker was passed. Bro. Gribble being ill can only transact business with the Lodge by letter. Rs. 135 resolved to be given in charity and a vote of thanks passed to Wor. Bro. Col. Heathcote, who has retired, for the musical ritual.

The Lodge is now in a very good financial position. Rs. 500 invested, Rs. 334-11-10 to credit in the current account, and Rs. 213 in the Treasurer's hands with Rs. 359 outstanding dues.

Bros. Lobb, Bassant, Holland, LeMaistry, Bunce and Hill  
**Jan. 17, 1903.** elected as joining members; Lieut. Baker was initiated, and Bro. Sergt. Baker raised to 3rd degree.

Bro. Outlaw in the chair. Bro. Gribble opened the Lodge and then bid the brethren farewell as he was leaving for England in ill-health and did not expect to return. He made a speech reviewing the progress which had been made by the Lodge since he first became Worshipful Master five years ago and afterwards Treasurer. In concluding he emphasised the necessity of mutual dependence and moral sympathy. Rs. 100 voted to Grand Lodge. Bros. Lake and Baker passed to 2nd degree and Sergt. Smith was initiated. Bro. Dickson elected Worshipful Master.

Bro. Brown elected as joining member Bro; Smith was passed to 2nd degree, and Bro. Dickson was installed by Wor. Bro. March 17. Daw. Lodge balance to credit is Rs. 1,495-3-9, the outstanding dues being reduced to Rs. 213-13-9.

April 21. Bros. Todd and Malcolm elected as joining members. Bros. Baker, Lake and Smith raised to 3rd degree.

May 19. Bro. Col. Thompson resigns, and Bros. Lake and Baker go on the absent list.

June 16. Bro. Jones elected as joining member. Bro. Friar passed to 2nd degree.

*Note.*—The credit balance has fallen to Rs. 1,064, of which Rs. 344-10-6 are outstanding dues.

July 21. Bro. Moberly was elected a joining member.

Bros. Wilson and Clinton elected as joining members. A Secretary's jewel is voted to Bro. Hunt. Bro. Vass being in distress, Augt 10. Rs. 7 per mensem were voted for 6 months.

Sept. 15. Bro. Meneaud elected as a joining member.

Secretary's jewel presented to Bro. LeGreys. Order of the Grand Lodge of England regarding the publication of Oct. 20. Masonic Proceedings without authority is read out.

*Note.*—Credit balance is Rs. 1,150, but outstanding dues are not reduced.

Resolved, that ladies be invited to the next Banquet, but they are to be paid for as guests by the brethren inviting them. Nov. 17. It is also resolved that Rs. 2 out of the subscription be put on one side for the Stewards' Fund, and that all refreshments during dinner till the Tyler's toast be paid for from that fund.

Dec. 10. Bro. Nepean elected joining member.

The Worshipful Master having met with an accident is not able to attend. Rs. 30 voted towards a tombstone over the grave of the late Bro. Hales. Bro. Willows elected as joining member. Bro. Frankel elected Worshipful Master. Sergt. Foden was initiated.

Installation night. Wor. Bro. Goddard in the chair. Messrs. Renny and Cockaday initiated. Bro. Frankel was installed by Wor. Bro. Hammond.

*Note.*—Lodge credit Rs. 1,280-4-3, outstanding dues reduced to Rs. 232-4-6.

Bros. Foden, Kenny and Cockaday passed to 2nd degree.

Permanent Committee recommend that a photo of Wor. Bro. Outlaw be taken and a copy be presented to him.

Sergt. Hayes was initiated and Bros. Foden, Kenny and Cockaday raised to 3rd degree.

Sergts. Donaghue and Taylor initiated. Bro. Riddle elected as joining member. Bro. Hayes passed to 2nd degree.

*Note.*—The outstanding dues are reduced to Rs. 194 and the Lodge credit balance stands at Rs. 1,166-9-8.

A well-attended Meeting. Sergt. Virgin initiated. Bros. Donaghue and Taylor passed to 2nd degree and Bro. Hayes raised to 3rd; all three degrees appear to have been worked between 6-45 and 8-45—uncommonly quick work.

Sergt.-Major Rowley and Sergt. Stanscombe initiated and Bro. Fairbain elected. Bros. Taylor and Donaghue raised to 3rd degree. A letter read from the Deputy District Grand Master-in-charge, fining the Worshipful Master Rs. 15 for having admitted a Bro. (Riddle) without the production of a Grand Lodge Certificate or certificate from his former Lodge.

Sergts. Cooley, Richards and Floyd initiated. Bros. Virgin, Rowley and Stanscombe passed to 2nd degree.

Sergt. Grimwood initiated. Bros. Cooley, Floyd and Richards passed, and Bros. Virgin, Rowley and Stanscombe raised to 3rd degree. Lodge closed at 9-45.

*Note.*—Lodge credit stands at Rs. 1,489 and outstanding dues are Rs. 235-3-3.

The Lodge Meetings are very well attended.

**Nov. 16.** Sergt. Huskisson and Mr. Whatmore initiated and Bros. Cooley, Richards and Floyd raised to 3rd degree.

Bros. Stevenson and Williams elected as joining members. Bros. Grimwood, Huskisson and Whatmore passed to 2nd degree. A jewel is voted to Bro. Outlaw. Rs. 150 given as Christmas charity.

**Jan. 18, 1905.** Sergt. Lepler initiated and the three brethren passed to 3rd degree. Rs. 100 voted to the widow of the late Bro. LeGreys.

*Note.*—Lodge credit has increased to Rs. 1,529-11-2 and outstanding dues are reduced to Rs. 200-7-6.

Bro. Daymont elected member. Bro. Lepler passed to 2nd degree and Bro. Hamilton elected as Worshipful Master with **Feb. 15.** Bro. Daymont as Treasurer.

Wor. Bro. Frankel appears to have had a very successful year. The status of the Lodge has considerably changed. It is very strong in number, but is almost entirely military in character, with very few members of commissioned rank. The attendance is good, and the payments are being promptly made at each Meeting.

**March 15.** Installation. Bro. Hamilton was installed by the retiring Master.

**March 25.** Emergent Meeting. Sergt. Durrell initiated and Bro. Lepler raised to 3rd degree.

**April 19.** Messrs. Moss and Waller were initiated.

**May 17.** Bros. Durrell, Moss and Waller passed to 2nd degree.

*Note.*—Lodge credit stands at Rs. 1,495-13-11 and outstanding dues at Rs. 226-5-3.

**June 21.** The three candidates are raised to 3rd degree.

Bro. Walter elected as a joining member. Announcement is made of the approaching visit of the District Grand Master, **July 19.** Lord Ampthill.

Riding Master Phipps was initiated. Wor. Bro. Gribble after an absence of more than two years was present and was proposed as a joining member. **Augt. 16.**

*Note.*—Lodge credit Rs. 1,511-8-5 and outstanding dues reduced to Rs. 152-1-6.

Wor. Bro. Eardley Norton who is now Worshipful Master of Lodge Pitt Macdonald in Madras, visited the Lodge and was asked to take the chair. Wor. Bro. Gribble was re- **Sept. 20.**

elected as member and Sergt. A. E. Hooper was initiated by Bro. Norton.

Bros. Phipps and Hooper were passed to 2nd degree. Rs. 150 voted  
 Oct. 18. towards the testimonial to be presented to the District  
 Grand Master, Lord Ampthill.

Bro. Phipps raised to the 3rd degree. It was resolved to join in a  
 united Masonic Address to be presented to H. H. the  
 Nov. 15. Nizam of Hyderabad on the occasion of his Jubilee in  
 December. (*Note.*—An account of this function will be found in the  
 concluding remarks.)

*Note.*—Lodge credit, Rs. 1,486-4-3, of which outstanding dues,  
 Rs. 243-8-9.

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## LODGE DECCAN, No. 1444, E.C.

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The Charter of Lodge Deccan is dated 17th June, 1873, and was issued when the Marquis of Ripon was Grand Master of English Masonry. The founders of the Lodge were Bros. Edward James Martindale, Colin Hercules Skinner Johnston, John Grimley, Edward Sheppard, Philip Sharkey Hudson, Henry F. Bower, Jevanji Pestonji and others. Bro. Martindale was appointed the first Worshipful Master and Bros. Johnston and Grimley the S. and J. Wardens respectively.

The original Charter was stolen and in 1895 a new Charter was issued by H. R. H. the Prince of Wales (now King Edward VII.) in favour of Bros. G. F. Turner, Hukum Chund, C. A. Battenberg, A. M. Walter, O. H. Boardman, W. W. Moss, H. E. Tripp and seven others. (*Note*.—Strange to say the Minute book containing the record of the loss of the Charter and of the application for a new one is also lost, and the facts as here given are to be found only in the printed copy of the bye-laws.)

Unfortunately the first book of records is missing and the second book was in a very mutilated condition, the binding and some of the pages having been eaten by white ants. The first record is dated 3rd May, 1878, and the book continues until the 12th March, 1892.

The Lodge met until quite recently in the St. George's Grammar School which adjoins St. George's Church in Chudderghat, a building very unsuitable for Masonic purposes but which was given for a small rent (Rs. 10 per mensem). It now holds its Meetings in the Gosha Mahal rooms together with Lodge Morland, the R. A. Chapter and Lodge Hyderabad.

Wor. Bro. C. B. Dunlop (Chief Engineer of the Nizam's State Railway) is the Worshipful Master. Bro. Llewellyn, May 3, 1878. also an official of the same Railway, is I. P. M. Bro. G. E. Walker, S.W., Bro. H. L. Johnston, J.W., E. C. Johnston is acting as Secretary for his brother W. Colin Johnston; Mahomed Saleh Khan, S.D.; Mahomed Ali Khan, J.D., Ardaseer Pilcher, I.G., and the members present are I. P. Martin, Wor. Bro. (Colonel, afterwards General) Campbell, Bower, Ameer-ud-deen Khan and Grimley, also

one visitor Bro. Myers from St. John. Many of these names as also those of the original founders have been met with in the Secunderabad Lodges of St. John and Mayo as having taken an active part in Masonry.

No degrees were conferred at this Meeting, but the proceedings of the English Grand Lodge regarding the Grand Orient of France, which have been already alluded to elsewhere, were read and there was a discussion regarding a contribution to be made to the Chaplain in aid of the house he was building. A receipt for Rs. 25 to the Secunderabad Poor box, Rs. 25 to the Secunderabad Orphanage and Rs. 75 to the Chudderghat School were read out and the Lodge closed at 9 P.M.

Bro. Huggins, the Municipal Overseer, was elected a joining member.

The condition of the Lodge funds was discussed. The  
 June 7. assets amounted to Rs. 1,250-14-9, subject to liabilities of Rs. 410. As however Rs. 794 were due as arrears there was practically only a cash balance of Rs. 46. It was therefore resolved that no contribution towards the Chaplain's house could be given. Several of the native brethren whose names had for some time appeared in the Summons having failed to attend, it was decided to omit them in future. Mr. Hillier (Auditor of the Railway) was proposed as a candidate.

The ballot for Bro. Huggins at the previous Meeting had proved  
 July 5. foul but one of the brethren present stated that he had since found out that by mistake he had voted on the black side of the ballot box. It was therefore decided that so much of the Minutes of the previous Meeting as referred to Bro. Huggins' ballot being foul should be omitted and that the ballot should be held to be clear. (*Note.*—There had been two black balls which were sufficient to make the ballot foul: one having been given wrongly, it was held to have been clear.)

[This procedure seems wrong and it would have been more regular to have held a fresh ballot.] Mr. Hillier was initiated.

After this a rather strange discussion arose. Under the original bye-laws Rs. 10 was entered as the joining fee. Bro. Llewellyn complained that he had paid Rs. 15 and producing a copy of the bye-laws which, he said, had belonged to a former I. P. M., in which this amount was entered, he claimed a refund. The Secretary, Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston, explained that the bye-law had been subsequently altered and the alteration sanctioned by the District Grand Lodge and that apparently the I. P. M. had omitted to enter the alteration in his copy. This led to a rather heated discussion, but the Lodge eventually closed in

harmony at 10-20 P.M. (*Note*.—The whole incident was a storm in a tea-cup, and the objecting Brother was clearly in the wrong.)

A letter was read from the Chaplain requesting that the peon might be fined for having left two shades on the ground which  
**Aug. 2.** had been broken by a school-boy who had been subsequently caned for the offence. The Lodge very properly decided to bear the cost of the shades.

Considerable discussion about arrears and certain defaulters were ordered to show cause.

The 2nd degree was conferred on Bro. Hillier. Three resignations were recorded. More discussion about a case of  
**Sept. 6.** disputed arrears. The Lodge voted in favour of Wor. Bro. Aubery Saunders being elected as District Grand Master.

Mr. Hastings Palmer (a descendant of the great Banking firm and a Forest Officer in the Nizam's service) and Mr. Allen  
**Oct. 4.** of the Nizam's troops, elected as candidates, were initiated and Bro. Aga Nasir Shah was passed to the 2nd degree. A Brother in the Nizam's service who said he had received no pay for 6 months asked for time to pay up his arrears.

**Nov. 1.** Bros. Palmer and Allen passed to 2nd degree and Bro. Hillier raised to 3rd.

Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston in the chair spoke very strongly on the matter of arrears. A contribution of Rs. 25 ordered to be paid to the widow of a member.  
**Dec. 6.**

A funeral Lodge held at the quarters of Bro. J. Ogilvie, a procession being afterwards formed to the graveyard where a full  
**Dec. 13.** Masonic ceremony was performed.

A Brother arrived late whilst the Minutes were being read, and on being asked to wait left, having given his dues to the  
**Jan. 3, 1879.** Tyler and a verbal message that he wished to withdraw. The Worshipful Master very properly held that no notice could be taken of so irregular and disrespectful a proceeding.

A discussion arose regarding the election of a new Worshipful Master. Several of the brethren eligible stated that  
**Feb. 7.** they did not wish to stand. As regards one of them Bro. (Colonel) Campbell who had left the Lodge, Wor. Bro. Wilkinson stated that before leaving he had authorized him to state that he would leave himself in the hands of the Lodge. It was then urged by one of the Brethren that no Brother eligible had a right to withdraw and that all the members should themselves decide as to whom they would have.

The names of all eligible brethren were then read out and out of nineteen votes, eight were in favour of Bro. H. L. Johnston and eight in favour of Bro. Campbell. The Worshipful Master instead of giving a casting vote decided upon holding a fresh election for the two brethren only. The Senior Warden Bro. Greig objected and gave notice of appeal on the ground that Bro. Campbell having announced through the Secretary that he did not wish to stand he should not be elected. This being overruled the Brother requested to be allowed to retire. At the second election there were eleven votes for Bro. Campbell and eight for Bro. Johnston. As these numbers showed a vote too many a third election was held with the result of ten for Bro. Campbell and eight for Bro. Johnston. The former was then declared elected.

(*Note.*—This disagreeable incident would have been avoided if the Worshipful Master had exercised the power vested in him of giving his casting vote. The result of his not doing so was needless friction. Altogether the impression caused by the past year's proceedings is that the members of the Lodge were inclined to be unnecessarily disputatious and that the Worshipful Master had allowed them to get out of hand.)

Bro. Colin Johnston was then elected Treasurer but declined the office, whereupon Bro. Gauntlett who had the next number of votes was elected.

Bro.....was a candidate for the 3rd degree, but as no Koran was present in the Lodge, objection was raised by Bro. E. C. Johnston that the ceremony could not be proceeded with. To this his brother Colin Johnston replied that the Brother in question had been obligated in the 2nd degree on the Bible in which he said he professed belief and as the question was now being discussed in Masonic papers whether the Koran should be admitted into a Lodge he had deemed it advisable not to bring it. The candidate was then asked whether he would consider an OB. on the Bible binding and replied that he would. An animated discussion then followed as to whether Mahomedans believed in the Bible or not. The result was that two of the disputants asked to be allowed to retire and the Lodge adjourned to refreshment, which seems to have been needed. So heated was the discussion that one of the brethren, the J. W., before leaving took off his apron and collar. For this he afterwards apologized. The result was that the candidate with two others was obligated on the Bible.

But the evening's proceedings were not yet over. The Brother who had objected to the election of Bro. Campbell because the Secretary had announced that he did not wish to stand, now re-appeared with a letter from Bro. Campbell to the effect that he had merely authorized the Secretary to state that he did not wish to stand in

the way of either of the Wardens, but that if the majority of the brethren chose to elect him he would be glad to accept. Thereupon another heated discussion arose and the Secretary (Bro. Colin Johnston) said that he would ask to be tried by a Board of Past Masters. The discussion was prolonged for a long time but at last closed amicably and the Lodge adjourned in peace and harmony at 1 A.M. after having appointed an Entertainment Committee. The Minutes (recorded by Bro. Colin Johnston) occupy no less than 15 folio pages and the reader will be thankful to get to the end of a discussion that began and ended in nothing. The marvel is that the Worshipful Master could have allowed it to continue so long.

It was decided that the whole of the proceedings at the last Meeting should be expunged (!) but it is to be remarked  
**March 12.** that they remain on record. This the third instance of "expunging" Minutes which, however, are allowed to remain. This was the Installation Meeting and the Lodge opened at 7-30 A.M. not because there were any degrees to be bestowed, but in order to satisfactorily dispose of the affairs that had so excited the minds of the brethren at the previous Meeting. A general reconciliation took place, all angry expressions were withdrawn and peace prevailed. There can be no doubt that this satisfactory condition had been greatly brought about by the influence of Bro. Col. Campbell, a man highly respected, occupying a high position as Magistrate of the Residency bazaars; a good Christian and a worthy Mason, endued besides with a peculiar charm of manner.

A statement of the condition of the Lodge and its progress during the year was read out by the retiring Master Wor. Bro. C. B. Dunlop, and as this is the first glimpse we have of its affairs, the statement is reproduced.

|                                                    |     |     |     |           |       |      |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-------|------|
| There was to the credit of the General Fund ...Rs. |     |     |     | 963       | 5     | 10   |
| Assets                                             | ... | ... | ... | ...       | 522   | 0 6  |
|                                                    |     |     |     | Total Rs. | 1,485 | 6 4  |
| Liabilities                                        | ... | ... | ... | ...Rs.    | 52    | 10 5 |
| Fund of Benevolence                                | ... | ... | ... | ...Rs.    | 17    | 9 5  |

At the commencement of the year the strength of the Lodge consisted of 47 members, of whom 34 were resident, 12 absent and one Tyler. During the year there had been two joinings, three rejoinings and three initiations. There had however, been 11 resignations and two exclusions leaving a strength of 40 members, of whom nine were on the absent list and two were Tylers.

There had been 12 regular and three Emergent Meetings of which two were Lodges of Sorrow, one to the memory of the District Grand Master (Wor. Bro. John Miller) and one for the funeral of a member, Bro. Ogilvie. The outstandings for dues amounted to Rs. 369-5-11. Rs. 246-8-10 had been given to charities.

A tribute of thanks was given to the Secretary, Bro. Colin Johnston, who seems to have been a thoroughly zealous and expert Mason though somewhat aggressive and irritable.

Rs. 125 were given amongst five charitable institutions, including one Mahomedan poorhouse.

After adjournment the Lodge opened again at 3-30 P.M. when the Installation ceremony was performed by the retiring Master to whom a vote of thanks and an illuminated address were passed. The Lodge adjourned for Divine Service at 6 P.M., reassembled and closed at 7 P.M.

April 4. Mir Cazim Ali of Lodge Morland should have been elected as a joining member, but the fees not having been paid the ballot was not held. A vote of thanks to Wor. Bro. Wilkinson for having lent his house for a Ball was passed.

A letter was read from the District Grand Secretary regarding the eligibility of a Master of a Scotch Lodge to the chair of an English Lodge.

The point arises because under the Scotch constitution any M. M. can be elected Rt. Worshipful Master even although he has not served as a Warden : whereas under the English no one can be elected Worshipful Master who has not qualified as a Warden for one year.

In his letter the District Grand Secretary said he would get a ruling on the subject. Presumably if the Scotch Master had served as a Warden for the necessary time in a S. Lodge he would be eligible, as would also be a Scotch Warden for the English chair.

May 2. Rt. Wor. Bro. Tyrrell Leith, D. G. L. of Bombay, was introduced by a Deputation and received with full honours. Bro. Casim Ali's fee having been paid he was balloted for and elected. The names of certain defaulters were ordered to be reported to Grand Lodge. Rt. Wor. Bro. Tyrrell Lieth was elected an Honorary member.

June 6. The proposal to start a fund for educating and maintaining orphans of poor Masons in the place was raised and put off for another Meeting. A contribution of Rs. 50 was received from Rt. Wor. Bro. Tyrrell Leith.

July 4. A sum of Rs. 50 was voted to the Bombay Fund of Benevolence.

**Augt. 5 and Sept. 5.** There being no business a lecture was delivered by Bro. Colin Johnston (subject not stated). Notice to show cause was ordered to be sent to several defaulters.

**Oct. 3.** There has been a custom for the last few Meetings to read out the names of defaulters who were disqualified from voting, before confirming the Minutes. (*Note.*—It is doubtful whether this measure will have any other effect than keeping them away and perhaps of causing irritation.) A Mr. J. N. Rowe on being balloted for, one of the brethren present declined to take a ball for voting purposes, and on its being given to him again he asked the Secretary why it was given. The Secretary referred him to the Worshipful Master, who told him that he could not refuse to vote. The Brother then asked the Worshipful Master whether the ball had been given to him “in consequence of what happened at the Chapter the other night,” and was told by the Worshipful Master that he had better withdraw, which he did. The ballot after being taken twice proved foul.

**Nov. 7.** Bro. Colin Johnston in the chair delivered a lecture on “The Lodge.” It was reported to the Lodge, that the Brother (Grimley) who at the last Meeting had been asked to withdraw had refused to accept his summons. The matter was referred for the decision of the Worshipful Master. A letter circulated by Bro. Colin Johnston containing a proposal to build a Lodge of their own was read. It was proposed to raise Rs. 4,000 in shares of Rs. 10 each; of these, 98 had already been taken up, 30 had been presented to the Lodge and Rs. 300 had been set apart from Lodge Funds. It was expected that the Chapter would take up several and that in a year’s time the Lodge would be able to take them up. The Brethren were asked to take up other shares and a building Committee would be appointed at the next Meeting.

**Dec. 5.** Bro. Colin Johnston gave another lecture on Charity. The matter of Brother Grimley having refused to accept his summons was then taken up, and the Worshipful Master pointed out that it was a serious breach of his OB. and that if it occurred again he would have to take serious notice of it, but on this occasion would leave the matter to the Brother’s conscience. A proposal that he should be called upon to apologize was lost. The building scheme was referred to the Permanent Committee to which the name of Bro. Allen was added who promised to produce a plan and estimate before the next Meeting. The Secretary, Bro. Colin Johnston, announced that he had been elected Worshipful Master of Lodge St. John.

An illuminated address of thanks was presented to Wor. Bro. Wilkinson who had not only lent his house, but also  
**Jan. 2, 1880.**

contributed largely to the cost of the Ball. Bro. Colin Johnston gave the lecture on the Tracing Board in the 1st degree. A letter was read from Bro. Ben Johnston offering to take 120 shares in the building fund, besides the 20 he had presented to the Lodge.

Bro. Allen presented the plan of the proposed building which was referred to the Permanent Committee.

The attendance at Lodge has been fairly good for some time, averaging about 15, besides visitors. This was the  
**Feb. 6.**

election Meeting and Bro. G. Palmer was elected, five other candidates receiving votes, Colin Johnston, the retiring Master, being elected Secretary. When congratulating him on his election Wor. Bro. Campbell stated that Rs. 4,000 had been collected for the building of a new Lodge. Though there had been no work during Bro. Campbell's year there had been, as he remarked, no ill-will. Letter was also read from Major Nevill sanctioning a piece of land in the Saifabad Cantonment.

Lodge opened at 7-45 A. M. An Honorary member, Wor. Bro. A. W.

**March 12.** Forbes, was placed at his request on the paying list by acclamation. The Lodge was raised to the 2nd degree

and adjourned to 3. P. M. Bro. Palmer who had been S. W. was then presented and installed in the usual manner by the retiring Master. (Bro. Palmer was one of the principal officers in the Nizam's D. P. W. and afterwards succeeded Bro. Wilkinson as Secretary to Government.) At 4-30 the Lodge adjourned and marched in procession to Church and reassembled at 5-45. The yearly statement was read out. The year commenced with 40 members and closed with 87, of whom 11 were absent and two serving brethren. The cash balance was Rs. 1,092 and Rs. 625-7-9 were due from outstandings (Rs. 384-5-6), refreshments (102) and from Benevolent Fund Rs. 139-2-3. A jewel was voted to Bro. Campbell which however he declined to accept as certain jewels voted to P. M. in the past had not yet been presented.

An address on vellum was presented to Wor. Bro. Dunlop the

**April 2.** Worshipful Master in 1878-9. As Bro. Campbell had declined a jewel it was resolved to give him a similar

address. A request for a grant-in-aid, etc., was read from the Secunderabad Ball Committee which had to meet a deficit of Rs. 600. The subject was reserved for discussion at the next Meeting.

It was decided that no Lodge funds could be given to the Ball

**May 7.** Committee, and that no list should be circulated, but that members could give what they chose. It was

announced that Bros. Campbell and Colin Johnston had been appointed S. W. and S. D. to the District Grand Lodge. From a statement read it appears that Rs. 620 had been subscribed for the last installation banquet and that there would be a small balance of Rs. 30 over. The banquet had been held in Bro. Wilkinson's house, which is situated close to the Lodge meeting place. A vote of thanks was passed to him for its use.

Mr. Wreay, Wine Merchant, Chudderghat, was elected and initiated.

June 4. Bro. Campbell was in the chair in the absence of the Worshipful Master whilst the candidate was being perambulated. Bro. E. C. Johnston made rather an untimely protest, against the attitude of the Deacons, he was called to order, and apparently half unclothed himself before leaving. A somewhat undignified scene followed and after he had retired the ceremony was proceeded with. A letter from a resigned member was announced regarding the old jewels that had been voted and not been given. After some discussion it was read, and it was resolved that the subscription collected for the purpose should be returned. Unfortunately the incident gave rise to an unfortunate controversy between the Bros. Colin and E. J. Johnston in which the latter gave the former the lie direct, and after the latter had retired a proposal was made that the former should be called upon for an apology.

July 2. The Worshipful Master being absent, Bro. Colin Johnston occupied the chair and being therefore in an invidious position as regards the former "stormy" Meeting before putting the Minutes for confirmation he said that he wished to withdraw his proposal about calling upon his Brother for an apology. Wor. Bro. Forbes then suggested that it was out of order to make any omissions from the Minutes, which were in fact only a record of what had passed and if correctly recorded *must* be confirmed. (*Note*.—This seems to be a most proper suggestion and is one that should be borne in mind by all Lodges. The word "confirmation" is perhaps a wrong one to use and leads to misunderstanding. The only meaning that should be attached to it is that the Lodge 'confirms' the record as a correct one. If on reconsideration the Lodge wishes to alter any Resolution arrived at, it must do so in a regular manner. It cannot refuse to allow facts to be omitted from the record which have been correctly recorded.)

The Worshipful Master in the chair claimed as a precedent that the Grand Lodge of England in the previous month of March had allowed a part of the proceedings to be omitted before confirmation. On this assurance of the Worshipful Master, Bro. Forbes withdrew his suggestion. (*Note*.—With all due respect the compiler considers

that Bro. Forbes was right and it would seem to be advisable that a distinct ruling should be obtained on the point. (Anything that tends to allow the alteration or omission of actual facts would seem to be most undesirable.) The result of this was that the part of the Minutes in which the apology had been proposed, seconded and carried was not confirmed, but remains on the record! After this a letter was read from the Worshipful Master (G. Palmer) resigning his chair as he intended to retire from Free Masonry altogether. A letter from the offending Brother at the previous Meeting was then read in which he tendered his resignation. This was ordered to be recorded and then a Resolution was carried that as he was still in the jurisdiction of the Lodge, he should be called upon to apologize. (*Note.*—But if he refuses, what then? His resignation has been accepted and the facts which led to it have not been confirmed! A more hopeless *impasse* cannot be imagined. Evidently the stormy elements of Lodge Deccan required a strong controlling hand. *Tantæne viæ animis cœlestibus!*)

Augt. 6. Bro. Colin Johnston in the chair. Mr. Rowe was initiated.

The evening's proceedings were marred by another painful incident owing to Bro. Colin Johnston referring to an outside conversation at the Club in which he was alleged to have persuaded a recently initiated Brother to leave Deccan and take his subsequent degrees in Lodge St. John. It is clear that the charge was utterly unfounded but it is to be deplored that it should ever have been taken notice of in this way. (*Note.*—There is a bad spirit about and it would seem as if the Lodge were in a bad way.) Bro. Colin Johnston made a formal complaint against the Brother in question and requested that it be sent to the Permanent Committee for enquiry.

No work. Discussions about the last incident. The Permanent Committee was ordered to meet at Bro. Campbell's house to decide the matter.

Oct. 1.

The quarrel has been settled. A full enquiry has been held, the Brother who had made the charge against Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston had admitted that he acted on false and incorrect information and has given a written apology. This apology is on the record and is full and ample. (*Note.*—The settlement of this painful incident reflects great credit on Wor. Bro. Campbell's tact and Masonic spirit. Bro. Colin Johnston accepted the apology in a truly Masonic spirit and the compiler feels bound to say that throughout the various animated discussions of the past three years Bro. Colin Johnston is almost always in the right. The unfortunate part is that he is always

Nov. 5.

the centre of each dispute, and is perhaps too much in evidence. As Wor. Bro. Campbell pointed out, the whole incident is a warning that in Masonic matters if there is ever a cause for dissatisfaction the Brother should either appeal direct to the Brother suspected for an explanation or else ask privately for the intervention of a third Brother. The most reprehensible thing to do is to talk of Masonic matters outside the Lodge.)

Unfortunately this evening did not close without another painful incident. A Brother made a written charge against Bro. Colin Johnston in connection with Chapter affairs which was ruled out of order. A discussion followed but the letter is not recorded, but from the subsequent proceedings it seems that an allegation was made that certain bills had been left unpaid which the Brother had secretly collected and now produced. In the enquiry that followed it was proved that the charge was a false one, but Bro. Colin Johnston resigned his post of Secretary and Treasurer and very inadvisedly made counter-charges against the Brother of having taken away Lodge liquor to his own house. The worthy Brother spoilt his own case by losing his temper, and though it is clear that the sympathies of the Committee were entirely with him, before hearing their report he indulged in angry protests which to a certain extent alienated them.

The discussion of this very painful incident continued over three Meetings and there is no object to be gained in going into further details here.

At this Meeting Bro. Campbell was elected to the chair as the man best calculated to pour oil on the troubled waters.

Feb. 4, 1881.

In returning thanks for the honour, Bro. Campbell made a most impressive speech exhorting the brethren to more brotherly feeling and Masonic spirit.

Installation day. The Lodge met in the morning and adjourned to the afternoon. Unfortunately two pages at least are missing and the record contains only the opening and closing portion. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Colin Johnston, a better feeling of harmony appears to prevail, Bro. Colin Johnston again appears as Secretary and the year opens with improved prospects.

March 12.

A very small attendance and a quorum rendered possible only by the presence of four visitors. Only routine work.

April 1.

A very small attendance and a quorum rendered possible only by the presence of four visitors. Only routine work.

May 6.

The S. W., Bro. Gauntlett is in charge of the Lodge. Two rejoining members proposed, Bros. Ben Johnston and Meer Cazim Ali.

June 3.

The Worshipful Master absent through illness. A few months previously it appears that a book of lottery tickets issued by Lodge Star in the East had been received, but by order of the Worshipful Master had been destroyed and no notice taken of it—lotteries being illegal in India. A letter was received from the Secretary of Lodge Star in the East, saying that Lodge Deccan would be held responsible for the price of the tickets. Ordered that a reply be sent giving the circumstances and declining to pay.

July 1.

No work beyond opening and closing. The stagnant condition of the Lodge reminds one of the saying of “making a desert and calling it Peace.”

Augt., Sept. and Oct.

An Emergent Meeting to receive the District Grand Master, Col. Bro. Aubrey Saunders, accompanied by Bro. A. M. Saunders, P.D.G.S.W. of the Punjaub. In his address to the Lodge the District Grand Master said that he was pleased to find harmony restored but alluded to the very voluminous debates and minutes. He also reminded them of the necessity of refraining from speaking of Lodge matters outside Lodge, and recommended to their notice the claims of the Madras Masonic Institute.

Oct. 22.

Worshipful Master absent. Bro. Colin Johnston in the chair announces his intention to resign the Secretaryship and also Masonry generally.

Here there are several pages of the Minutes missing and the next record is of the Meeting on January 6, 1882.

During the interval a Dr. Ismail has been initiated as his name appears as a Brother. He should have been initiated at the Meeting of 4th November but the Worshipful Master in the chair was unable to do so owing to ill-health.

Jan. 6, 1882.

Bro. Colin Johnston in the chair; his brother, Bro. Ben Johnston, was elected Worshipful Master. Bro. Colin Johnston has apparently reconsidered his intention to resign Freemasonry as he asked that his name should be again put on the full paying list.

Feb. 3.

Installation day. Lodge opened at 7-45 A.M. Bro. Mahomed Ismail raised to 3rd degree. The ceremony was performed in the evening by Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston, to whom it was resolved to present an Address on vellum for his long services.

March 13.

No financial statement has been read for some time and it would seem that the Lodge funds are low and the strength small.

An invitation having been received from Lodge St. John to join in a special Thanksgiving Service to be composed by Rev. Bro. French in commemoration of H. M's escape from assassination, it was resolved, that the Lodge would join in a congratulatory Address, but doubted whether a Special Service could be held without the Grand Master's sanction.

May 5. Nothing of importance to record.

June 2. No business beyond discussion of arrears, and  
July 7. ordinary routine.  
Augt. 4.

Small attendance of members and two visitors. Bro. Colin Johnston raised an objection on the ground of the Minutes not having been properly recorded in July and August (as far as the Book is concerned they seem to be in order) and the Lodge was closed without any business being transacted.

Nov. 9. Seven members and two visitors present. No work.

Nov. 10. An Emergent Meeting to initiate Moulvi Vilayat Ali, who is about to leave the Station shortly. Nine members.

The Worshipful Master, Bro. Campell in the chair. As no dispensation had been applied for, the candidate could not be passed to 2nd degree, a full month not having elapsed since his initiation. The Worshipful Master pointed out in very courteous language that it was not right that a Mahomedan or Hindu should uncover his head in Lodge. (*Note.*—This is rather a curious point. Amongst natives of India it is disrespectful to uncover or to keep the feet covered—an exception being made if they wear European boots. Amongst English and Europeans generally it is a mark of respect to uncover the head and keep the feet covered. But strange to say in Germany, at all events during all Masonic Meetings the brethren keep their hats on, and even retain them at Banquet until the obligation toasts have been drunk. This seems to be the survival of an old custom in Freemasonry symbolical of equality. If this is correct, taking the converse etiquette of an Eastern country into consideration a native Brother should be allowed to uncover his head.)

Bro. Burrett elected a joining member. Bro. Vilayat Ali passed to 2nd degree. A Masonic Impostor of the name of Dumas Jan. 5, 1883. applied for aid, addressing his application to the "Great Grand Master" and signing it "yours obediently" Aid was refused pending production of Grand Lodge Certificate. (*Note.*—Some months

subsequently it transpired that this man Dumas was in the habit of applying for aid from Masonic bodies all over India, but was not a Mason at all.) Bro. Vilayat Ali proposed certain brethren as Masons but being only a F. C. was not allowed to do so.

**Feb. 2.** Bro. Campbell elected as Worshipful Master.

Moulvies Zackria, Munsub Ali, Mahomed Ali, and Hafiz Ali were ballotted for, but in each case there was a black-ball.

Installation day. A fuller attendance than has been usual for some time. 11 members and 12 visitors. Lodge opened at 8-15.

**March 12.** Bros. Stone and Jamsetji Viccajee elected as joining members. Bro. Vilayat Ali raised to 3rd degree. The Installation ceremony was then performed in the morning by Bro. Colin Johnston. This was the second occasion of Bro. Campbell being elected Worshipful Master of Deccan at the same time that he was also Worshipful Master of St. John (of course a dispensation had been applied for and obtained). Bro. Allen was invested as Treasurer and Secretary, in which last capacity he has been acting for the last three years. The Minutes during this time have been beautifully written in a clear handwriting (a great relief to a compiler).

Wor. Bro. Crowley elected as joining member. The Worshipful

**April 6.** Master, who was President of the Blue Ribband Society, having proposed that liquors should no longer be given as Lodge refreshments, the proposal met with opposition and a letter from the I. P. M. was read on the subject. The Worshipful Master explained that, as the Meetings were held in the school house and next morning bottles were seen on the ground, the example was not edifying to school children. The subject was deferred to the next Meeting for discussion. (*Note.*—What has become of the Rs. 4,000 which three years ago had been subscribed for in order to build a Lodge on the site given by the Government?)

Worshipful Master not present and as there was no proposal before the Lodge regarding discontinuing liquors, the matter was not discussed. No business done.

**June 1.**

Mr. Ookerji Fakirji, a Pleader, was elected and initiated. The

**July 6.** Lodge is evidently in a low state as regards funds and the cheque for the candidate's degree fees was ordered to

be at once sent on account of arrears of rent due. The question of refreshments was allowed to drop.

**Augt. 13.** Emergent Meeting. Bro. Ookerji Fakirji was passed to 2nd degree.

Sept. 7. No quorum.

Oct. 18. Emergent Meeting. Bro. Fakirji raised to 3rd degree.

Nov. 2. Nothing of importance.

A confidential letter from the District Grand Superintendent was read regarding the operations of the Masonic Impostor Dumas alluded to some time back.

Jan. 14, 1884. Mr. A. W. Fruvall elected and initiated.

Bro. Huggins, who during the past five years has passed through all the subordinate offices and been most constant in his attendance was elected Worshipful Master. Bro. Fruvall passed to 2nd degree. According to the record Bro. Huggins was not only elected but also installed at this Meeting. No page is missing in the book but there are no Minutes of a Meeting in February when the election takes place. Apparently for some reason or other it was not recorded. No such Meeting was held and the election and installation took place on the same evening by special dispensation as announced by the Installing Master, Bro. Colin Johnston.

April 4. Lodge put in mourning on account of the death of the Duke of Albany.

June 6. Bro. Fruvall raised to 3rd degree.

July 4. Lodge opened and closed.

Augt. 1. Mr. Samuel of the Nizam's Medical Service was elected and initiated.

Sept. 5. Nothing of importance. Arrears discussed.

Oct. 3. Two brethren excluded for arrears.

Nov. 7. Bro. Samuel passed to 2nd degree. Bro. Colin Johnston who has been seriously ill for some time writes to have his name removed from the list of members. Bro. Fruvall resigns the Lodge.

Dec. 5.

Bro. Samuel raised to 3rd degree. The Treasurer, Bro. Viccajee, has left suddenly without notice and without submitting the Lodge account. An explanation is asked for.

Jan. 2, 1885.

Bro. Carroll elected as joining member. Dr. J. A. Kelly elected and initiated. Bro. Ben Johnston elected Worshipful Master by the casting vote of the Worshipful Master in the Chair. Bro. Campbell resigns the Lodge, Wor. Bros. Colin Johnston, Ardaseer Pilcher and Campbell elected Honorary Members of the Lodge.

Feb. 6.

Installation day. Lodge opened at 7 A.M. Bros. Lutfulla and  
**March 12.** Rustomji Dadabhoy elected as joining members. The ceremony was performed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher.

Bro. Kelly raised to 2nd degree. Bro. Mansab Ali elected as joining  
**April 3.** member. Letter read from Bro. Colin Johnston declining the Honorary Membership.

**May 1.** Bro. Kelly raised to 3rd degree.

A Brother (Mahomed Ali Khan) sends a letter of resignation and  
**June 5.** asks that an account of his Lodge dues may be sent. The Worshipful Master ruled that the resignation could not be accepted until the Lodge dues had been paid. (*Note.*—This is clearly wrong; no clearance certificate can of course be given until the dues are paid, but a name cannot be kept on after a resignation has been given.)

Nothing of importance. At the latter Meeting  
**July and Augt.** Mr. Isaac Martin, son of the Tyler, was initiated as a serving Brother.

Nothing of importance. The other degrees conferred  
**Sept., Oct. and Nov.** on Bro. Martin. Bro. Jones elected a joining member.

**Dec. 4.** Mr. Nowroji Pestonji elected and initiated.  
**Jan. 1, 1886.** Mr. Bhandara, Bar.-at-Law, elected and initiated.

Bro. Bhandara passed to 2nd degree. This was election night and  
**Feb. 5.** an unseemly quarrel occurred. The Worshipful Master having stated that when he took over the Lodge "it was on its beam ends, but that owing to the diligence of the officers and the kindness of the brethren he would be able to hand over a cash balance of Rs. 200;" the S. W. Bro. Ookerji rose and said "that he and not the Worshipful Master was responsible for the present flourishing condition of the Lodge." After the voting papers had been issued an alarm was heard and a member who had arrived late was announced. The Worshipful Master refused to allow him to be admitted until the voting was over. The S. W. objected and said that all members should be allowed to vote, and if they were not he would protest and appeal. On the votes being handed in there were five for Bro. Carroll and four for the S. W., and Bro. Carroll was announced to be Master-elect, but the S. W. leaving his chair denounced the election as illegal. He was called to order. It appears that by an oversight no mention of the election had been made in the Summons, though this was the day fixed for the election in the Bye-laws. Bro. Ookerji then said he would resign. The Worshipful Master told him: "you have several times been called to order for contumacious and disrespectful conduct to the chair, and as you have

now resigned, I shall thank you to retire, saluting the chair. Bro. Ookerji then disdainfully threw his apron and collar of office on the S. W.'s pedestal and walked straight to the door without saluting the chair, saying: "I don't care for your Lodge, I have other and better Lodges." In order to save further disturbance he was allowed to pass out.

The Minutes of these proceedings are not signed by either Worshipful Master or Secretary.

This should have been the installation evening. An appeal appears

to have been made to the District Grand Lodge by Bro. Ookerji which was read out, but is not recorded.

March 12.

When the question of confirming the Minutes came on, several brethren rose and stated that Bro. Ookerji had not *resigned* but had merely *retired* from the Lodge and that therefore in this respect the Minutes were wrongly recorded. The question as to who had actually sent the draft of the Minutes was disallowed by the Worshipful Master and there seems little doubt that they must have been drafted by the Worshipful Master himself because the Secretary stated that Bro. Ookerji had not *resigned* but had merely *retired*. A discussion ensued as to whether the Brother in question had been contumacious or not. The Worshipful Master said that the Brother's conduct and language would form the subject of another reference but in the meantime he would take the sense of the Lodge as to whether he had retired or resigned. The majority having decided that he had merely retired, the Brother was allowed to enter and take up his position as S. W. The Worshipful Master stopped all further discussion. Apparently the election has been cancelled for matters remain in *statu quo*. It is to be regretted that the whole of the District Grand Lodge's decision is not recorded because it is difficult to understand the actual position. These Minutes are signed by the Worshipful Master but not by the Secretary.

Emergent Meeting. Wor. Bro. Colin Johnston having died, a letter of condolence was ordered to be sent to his widow.

Dec. 3.

Various appeals and counter-appeals appear to have been sent to District Grand Lodge to which no decision had been received and whilst refusing a proposition to make an appeal to the Grand Lodge of England, and deciding to wait a further time for the District Grand Lodge's decision it was suggested by a P. M. that the quarterly dues should not be sent pending a decision on the appeals. This was very wisely overruled by the Worshipful Master. (A very small attendance.)

Although the Lodge appears to be closed by order of the District Grand Lodge, it has been summoned. P. M. Huggins asked whether the Lodge was opened and the Worshipful

Jan. 7, 1887.

Master replied "that in fact our patience was being tried by the District Grand Lodge authorities in not replying to our correspondence and we could not wait any longer and recommended that a further letter be sent to the District Grand Lodge asking for an immediate reply." (All these proceedings seem to be most irregular. Evidently the election of March last has been cancelled by order of District Grand Lodge and the Lodge has been put in abeyance. No dues have been paid but the Lodge continues to meet.)

An Emergent Meeting to hear the decision of the District Grand Lodge which again is not recorded, but from internal  
 Jan. 21. evidence it is clear that the Worshipful Master has been censured for want of judgment. He makes an explanation and calls upon Bro. Ookerji to apologize. This the Brother refuses to do and both he and the Worshipful Master express their intention of making further appeals. In the meantime dues are not being paid; only seven brethren were present who are all at loggerheads and the Lodge seems to be in a bad way. The presence of a man like Bro. Genl. Campbell seems to be sadly wanted, but he apparently has retired from the Lodge altogether, perhaps disgusted at these endless squabbles. (Note.—If the good men always retire out of disgust at a trouble of this kind, Masonry would be in a bad way. It would be left in the hands of those who are unworthy, and it is clear that at the present time in this Lodge there is a thoroughly unmasonic spirit prevailing.)

Bro. Nowroji Pestonji passed to 2nd degree. Bro. Ookerji Fakirji  
 Feb. 4. one of the principal parties in the recent controversy was elected Worshipful Master. Ten brethren and three visitors present. It was resolved to ask for a dispensation to hold the Installation ceremony and Banquet at the Freemasons' Hall in Secunderabad, owing to want of accommodation in the Chudderghat premises.

Installation at St. John's. Lodge opened at 8-30 A.M. 13 members  
 March 1. and 4 visitors present. Bro. Nowroji Pestonji raised to 3rd degree. Lodge adjourned to 6-30 P.M. Installation ceremony performed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher. The Worshipful Master in recognition of the honour done him, handed in cheques to the amount of Rs. 300 to various benevolent institutions. This was followed by cheques of Rs. 50 each from the late Worshipful Master and Bro. Framji Jamsetji. There was a large attendance in the evening of visitors and two new candidates were proposed. Evidently Wor. Bro. Ookerji, the new Worshipful Master, has triumphed all along the line, but there is absolutely nothing on record to show how. From interior evidence there is reason to suppose that the Minutes during the past year have not been recorded at the time and have been drawn up *ex post facto*.

Rupees 50 from Lodge funds subscribed to the Imperial Jubilee Institute and a guinea each from the Worshipful Master, April 1. the I. P. M. and Senior Warden.

It is pleasant to find that all is now in harmony; the principal antagonists in the recent controversy are now in May 6. brotherly accord and Bro. Ookerji being absent, Wor. Bro. Ben Johnston acts for him. Three new candidates proposed.

June 3. Messrs. Anant Kishan Rao, Ramchendra Rao and Mahomed Ali were initiated.

Bros. Ramchendra Rao, Anant Kishan Rao and Mahomed Ali were passed to the 2nd degree. It was resolved to present a July 1. Memorial to H. H. the Nizam asking that a certain bungalow which it was proposed to destroy be handed over to the Lodge as a Masonic Hall.

Bros. Anant Kishan Rao, Ramchendra Rao and Mahomed Ali should Augt. 5. have been raised to the 3rd degree; but the Worshipful Master in the Chair, Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher, being unacquainted with Urdu, asked Bro. Mahomed Ali to wait till the next Meeting when Worshipful Bro. Ben Johnston would be present. Bros. Anant Kishan Rao and Ramchendra Rao were then raised to 3rd degree. (Note.—This and similar other cases led to the founding of Lodge Hyderabad in 1893 which was supposed to work exclusively in Urdu and which will be alluded to in due course.) For the first time for some years we find a short financial statement to the effect that the Lodge has a balance in hand of Rs. 638. A P. M. jewel was voted to Bro. Huggins.

Messrs. Latchman Rao and S. Shaw were initiated and Bro. Ma- Sept. 2. homed Ali raised by Bro. Ben Johnston. Resolved to subscribe Rs. 50 towards a Jubilee jewel for Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher.

Sept. 3. An Emergent Meeting for a funeral ceremony over the remains of Bro. Cameron.

Mr. Atta Husain was initiated and Bros. Latchman Rao and S. Shaw were raised to 3rd degree. A question was raised about Nov. 4. renting a house as a Lodge. The Building fund of Rs. 4,000 has apparently fallen through although there is nothing on record about it.

Dec. 2. Capt. Boardman and Mr. Ulett, both of H. H's service, were initiated.

The Lodge has now a good attendance and seems to be in a fair way of becoming prosperous. Mr. Balmukand, Registrar Jan. 6, 1888. of the High Court, was elected and initiated; Bros.

Boardman and Ulett passed to the 2nd degree and Bro. Atta Husain raised to 3rd degree. A deputation was appointed to wait on Col. Marshall (Private Secretary to the Nizam) regarding the grant of a garden house for a Lodge. Lodge closed at 10 P.M.

Emergent Meeting to pass Bro. Balmukand and raise Bros. Ulett and Boardman, also to name a Brother to the vacant office of District Grand Master. Bro. Lord Connemara, Governor of Madras, was nominated.

Rajah Murli Manohar and Mr. Hanmant Rao elected. Two other joining candidates were blackballed. Mr. Hanmant Rao was initiated. Bro. Kelly elected as Worshipful Master and Bro. Huggins as Treasurer. Several new candidates proposed.

Feb. 13. An Emergent Meeting to initiate Rajah Murli Manohar.

Feb. 21. Another Emergent Meeting held under dispensation to pass Bro. Rajah Murli Manohar to the 2nd degree.

March 7. An Emergent Meeting to pass Bro. Hanmant Rao.

Installation day. Lodge opened at 7-30 A.M. Four candidates were to be balloted for, but the ballot for the first two proving foul, the names of the other two were withdrawn.

Lodge adjourned and re-assembled at 3-45 P.M., when the brethren marched in procession to St. George's Church for Service, after which Bro. Kelly was installed as Worshipful Master by Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher. Bro. Atta Husain presented Rs. 125 to the Benevolent fund and the new Worshipful Master Rs 50 to the orphanage.

April 6. Bros. Balmukand, Rajah Murli Manohar and Hanmant Rao raised to 3rd degree.

A ballot proved foul and as, under the Bye-laws, one black ball was sufficient to exclude, it was decided to alter them. Bro. Ben Johnston gave a lecture on the "Moral and Social virtues of Freemasonry."

The lecture appears in print in the Minute Book. It is an eulogy on Freemasonry but possesses no peculiar merit for originality.

A ballot proves foul with one black ball and the Worshipful Master rules that in future 3 black balls will be necessary to exclude and that a letter be written to District Grand Lodge asking for confirmation of this ruling.

June 1.

At the first of these dates nothing of importance. At the second sanction of District Grand Lodge is read out to alter the number of blackballs disqualifying from one to three. Mr. Cornelius was initiated. An address on vellum was presented to Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher.

Sept. 7. Messrs. Fitzgerald, Deshwandi Ram and Merjibhoy were elected. Bro. Cornelius was passed to 2nd degree.

Oct. 5. Bro. Cornelius raised to 3rd degree.

Mr. Deshwandi Ram was initiated. A letter of thanks was ordered to be written to Col. Marshall for securing a piece of land as a site for the Lodge.

Nov. 2. Bro. Deshwandi Ram passed to 2nd degree. A P. M. jewel voted to Wor. Bro. Ookerji.

Dec. 7. Third degree given to Bro. Deshwandi Ram. Rs. 50 voted to the widow of the late Tyler and a subscription list ordered to be sent round.

Jan. 4, 1889. The election of Worshipful Master unfortunately gave rise to another dispute. Out of 11 votes, five were recorded in favour of Bro. Viccaji, four in favour of Bro. W. A. Johnstone and two in favour of Wor. Bro. Huggins. At the close of the Meeting Bro. Johnstone thought that there must have been a mistake in the votes as only 10 voters were present and 11 votes had been recorded. The Worshipful Master however ruled that the votes had been correctly recorded. Bro. Huggins, the Treasurer, complained "bitterly" about the arrears, that he had had to borrow money to pay up the Grand Lodge dues and at the present moment had only a cash balance of Rs. 10. No financial statement has been presented to the Lodge for a long time. The Lodge appears to have been working in a private house (Mr. Kyte's) but as the rent was too much for the funds it was resolved to go back to the Grammar School.

Feb. 1. An Emergent Meeting called by the Worshipful Master to consider a protest against the election, sent in by Bro. W. Johnston. The protest was based on the grounds (1) that the Worshipful Master-Elect had not paid up his Lodge dues: (It appeared on enquiry that they had been sent to the house of the Treasurer during his absence, and had been afterwards received;) and (2) that the Worshipful Master-Elect had been excluded from Lodge Morland for non-payment of dues. An angry discussion ensued. It was proposed that the election be cancelled on the ground of Bro. Viccaji's name appearing in the Morland Bye-law book as an excluded member, but as certain doubts were raised against the correctness of the entry, it

was resolved to refer the matter to Lodge Morland. In the meantime, Bro. Ben Johnston protested against the Emergent Meeting having been called at all, and expressed his intention of referring the matter to District Grand Lodge.

The Worshipful Master's name does not appear and it would seem that the District Grand Lodge has decided against him

**March 13.** in the matter of having called an Emergent Meeting about Bro. Viccaji's election. The Minutes of the Emergent Meeting were ordered to be "expunged." In reality they remain in the book but are not signed as "confirmed." As a matter of fact a great many of the Minutes are not signed, either by the Secretary in some cases or by the Worshipful Master in others. (*Note.*—Altogether the Lodge seems to have strange ideas about the meaning of the word "confirmed." On one occasion a Brother objected to the Minutes because in them it was stated that the Lodge had been "raised" to the 2nd degree. The Brother maintained that the proper phrase was that the Lodge had been "passed" to the 2nd degree, and the Worshipful Master actually ordered the Secretary to make the correction. A moment's reflection will show how absurd this objection is. When he takes the 2nd degree a Brother is said to be "passed," but before this is done the Worshipful Master calls upon the brethren to assist him to *raise* the Lodge to the 2nd degree in order to *pass* the Brother. On other occasions if a subsequent Meeting disagrees with the Resolutions of a previous one, the Minutes are ordered to be "expunged." They are not actually struck out, but are left unsigned. A subsequent Meeting cannot refuse to confirm the Minutes of a previous one, except when they are incorrectly recorded. When corrected, they *must be confirmed* although the Resolution may be annulled by a subsequent proposal. Each Minute is supposed to be a record of what actually takes place, and when that has been done it is difficult to understand how it can be expunged—and if it is ordered to be "expunged" it should be so wiped out as to leave no record, and if this were done, in the event of an injustice and an appeal to District Grand Lodge there would be no record to show what had actually taken place.)

Mr. Dinshaw was elected and initiated and afterwards the Worshipful Master was installed by Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad, who is beginning to take a prominent part in these functions. He is a P. M. of Lodge Morland and has since attained high eminence in the Craft.

No Meetings appear to have been held during April and May.

Bros. Raghunath Prasad, Syed Ahmed, P. Stracey and Pestonji Iivanji elected as joining members. Bro. W. A. Johnstone

**June 7.** asks to be allowed to resign pending the decision of the

District Grand Lodge on the dispute between him and the Worshipful Master Viccaji.

This provisional resignation was not however accepted.

Bro. Dinshaw passed to 2nd degree. Bro. Ben Johnston delivered  
 July 5. another lecture which was approved of by the brethren  
 but does not appear on the record. An I. G's jewel  
 voted to Bro. Anant Kishan Rao, who has been very liberal in his  
 donations to the Lodge.

Bro. Bijia Raj raised to 3rd degree. Another strange scene occurred  
 at this Meeting. We learn that there arose "a desul-  
 Aug. 2. tory argument accusing the Worshipful Master of not  
 carrying out his work as he should, threatening to report him to District  
 Grand Lodge, etc., etc., and that too in the presence of visitors and  
 concluding by saying that the brethren of the different Lodges present  
 would speak about the irregularities of this Lodge in their respective  
 Lodges." Who made this most improper attack on the Worshipful  
 Master we are not told. The whole Minutes are very incoherently  
 recorded and are difficult to understand. Bro. Ben Johnston's name  
 appears as Secretary.

When the Lodge was opened Wor. Bro. Ben Johnston asked that the  
 visiting Brethren should be requested to retire as he  
 Sept. 6. wished to make a financial statement. The worthy  
 Brother who was acting as Secretary then drew attention to the state  
 of the arrears due not only by the members but by the principal and  
 assistant officers. He also complained of the irregular attendance of  
 the Wardens and other officers without apologizing for their absence.  
 The visiting Brethren were then re-admitted and Mr. Krishna Iyengar  
 was initiated, and Bro. Dinshaw passed to the 2nd degree.

No Meetings appear to have been held in October and November  
 and altogether the Lodge seems to have been in a very disorganized  
 state.

Mr. Gangadaram Pillai was elected and initiated. Bro. W. A.  
 Johnston resigns. The decision of the Board of general  
 Dec. 6. purposes regarding his complaint against the Worshipful  
 Master made in the previous April was read out. Bro. Johnston had  
 charged the Worshipful Master with misappropriating Lodge funds as far  
 back as 1884. The charge was held to be not proved and was dismissed.  
 One of the officers the J. W. Bro. Bhandara continuing to be absent  
 without any explanation, the Secretary was directed by the Worshipful  
 Master to write to him for one.

A quorum was made with the assistance of two visiting Brethren.  
**Jan. 3, 1890.** Letter of resignation from the J. W. Bro. Bhandara read.  
 Bro. Ben Johnston gave a lecture on Lodge furniture.

Bro. W. A. Johnston wishes to withdraw his resignation and accuses  
**Feb. 7.** the Secretary, Bro. Ben Johnston, of unmasonic and  
 ungentlemanly behaviour in declining to return certain  
 letters. Bro. Ben Johnston asks for a Committee of Enquiry. Bro.  
 Krishna Iyengar passed to the 2nd degree. Bro. Anant Kishen Rao  
 elected as Worshipful Master. A Committee was appointed to enquire  
 into the complaint of Bro. Ben Johnston against Bro. W. Johnston.

Lodge opened in the morning for work, but the candidates for raising  
**Mar. 15.** not being present, it was adjourned to the evening when  
 the Installation Ceremony was performed by Wor. Bro.  
 Ardaseer Pilcher. Rs. 25 given to a local charity and a contribution  
 to the family of the recently deceased District Grand Master of  
 Bombay, Rt. Wor. Bro. Gonow Taylor was proposed.

No Meetings during April and May.

A ballot for a candidate was put off on account "of the ballot balls  
**June 6.** being unavailable." Bros. Parak and Krishna Iyengar  
 were raised to the 3rd degree. Wor. Bro. Ookerji writes  
 to resign the Lodge and asks that the P. M's jewel voted may be sent  
 to him. A letter ordered to be sent to him requesting his attendance in  
 Lodge to receive it, as it was purchased partly from private subscription.  
 It is clear that another cause for friction has arisen. Three resignations  
 recorded. A resigned P. M. (Bro. Allen) asks for time to pay up his  
 arrears (Rs. 93). Rs. 75 were voted towards funeral expenses of Rt.  
 Wor. Bro. G. Taylor.

No Meeting in July.

Three candidates: Rajah Ganesh Persad, Melgiri Pandit and  
**Augt. 1.** Mr. I. M. Mayne were elected and Mr. Melgiri  
 Pandit, the only one present, was initiated. Lodge put  
 in mourning for six months on account of the death of Most Rt. Wor.  
 Bro. the Earl of Carnavon.

**Augt. 16.** Emergent Meeting to initiate Bro. Mayne.

**Sept. 5.** No work. Candidates for degrees not present.

**Oct. 3.** Bro. Mayne passed to 2nd degree. Other candidates  
 not present.

No Meeting in November.

Rajah Ganesh Persad is present and was initiated. Bro. Mayne was raised to the 3rd degree. Two resignations recorded.  
**Dec. 5.**

The passing of Bro. Ganesh Persad and Melgiri Pandit to the 2nd degree was deferred as there was no P. M. present conversant with Urdu. Wor. Bros. Ookerji and W. Johnston elected rejoining members by acclamation. Two other rejoining members proposed.  
**Jan. 2, 1891.**

Wor. Bro. G. F. Turner elected joining member by ballot and Bro. Neale rejoining member by acclamation. (*Note.*—This practice seems to be irregular especially as it does not appear that in this case the rejoining brethren gave any account of their proceedings since retirement, or produced clearance certificates (if any) from other Lodges. The Constitutions contain no mention of a vote by acclamation and under Section 189 it is clearly laid down, that he must be proposed, and seconded in one open Lodge and afterwards balloted for in another.)  
**Feb. 6.**

Bro. Mansab Ali, the J. D. was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Bro. Huggins refused the Treasurership and resigned the Lodge. Bro. W. Johnston who had only recently rejoined, again resigned.

The passing of Bro. Ganesh Persad had to be deferred again owing to the absence of the Worshipful Master who was the only one who could give the degree in Urdu. Bro. O. Boardman elected by acclamation as a joining member. The Lodge attended Divine Service and afterwards Bro. Mansab Ali was installed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher.  
**March 12.**

Bro. Huggins and Johnston appear to have withdrawn their resignations. The Jewel votes to the late W. M. and to Bro. Viccajee have not been bought owing to the Lodge funds being so low. (*Note.*—This is not the first time that this has happened and the Lodge seems to be more generous in its promises than in its performances.) Seven joining members proposed.  
**April 3.**

**April 24.** Emergent Meeting—  
 Bro. Gaya Persad,  
 „ M. Syed Ali,  
 „ M. Abdul Gaffoor,  
 „ S. Teherani,  
 „ Rajah Murli Manohar,  
 „ Attah Hussain, and  
 „ Rai Hukm Chand,  
 elected joining members by acclamation.

Vote of congratulation passed on appointment of Col. G. Moore as District Grand Master. As Bro. Gangadaram Pillai  
 May 1. has been convicted of a criminal offence and is undergoing a long term of imprisonment, his name is ordered to be reported to District Grand Lodge for expulsion.

Bro. Syed Hoossain Bilgrami, Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk (Private Secretary to H. H. the Nizam), elected a joining member by acclamation.  
 June 5. Bro. Ganesh Persad was at last passed to 2nd degree, whether in Urdu or English is not stated. (Rs. 20 voted from the funds and Rs. 39 subscribed by members towards a distressed Brother (Harrison) who wishes to go to Australia. Three office-bearers were nominated and invested with the Collars of office.

Bro. Ganesh Persad was raised to the 3rd degree in Urdu and obligated on the Koran. (Note.—Evidently from the name  
 July 3. the Brother was a Hindu. That being so, why was he obligated on the Koran ?)

Bro. Bhandara, about whom there had been trouble some time ago,  
 Augt. 7. was elected a joining member by acclamation. Mr. R. P. Rustum Fram was elected as a candidate for initiation, and the ceremony was performed. The proceedings connected with Nawab-Imad-ul-Mulk's rejoining are ordered to be cancelled, that Bro. having been under the impression, that he could be an absent member of the Lodge.

Mr. Ekbal Ali was elected as a joining member, (although no reply  
 Sept. 4. had been received from his Mother Lodge regarding his status,) on the guarantee of his proposer and seconder. Mr. Aravamuthu Iyengar was elected and initiated and Bro. Rustum Fram passed to the 2nd degree.

Bro. Ben Johnston has resigned in a huff, not by formal notice but on a note in the Subscription Book on account of the Bye-laws having been violated about which it will "hear more from District Grand Lodge and Lodge of England." After reading this strange resignation, the Worshipful Master states that he has seen Bro. Ben Johnston and that the latter was content to continue his membership.

Six candidates proposed of whom four were elected: Rajahs Gur  
 Oct. 2. Karan, Bhagwan Sahai, Mr. Ogilvie and Rai Gopal Persad. Bro. Rustom Fram was raised to 3rd degree. The District Grand Lodge proceedings were read regarding the matter of the convicted Bro. Gangadaram Pillai. An amendment proposed by Bro. the Hon'ble J. W. Handley (a Judge of the High Court) had been carried by a large majority that the Brother should be called upon



H. C. Cooney, P.M.



J. E. Lee, P.M.



Mahomed Siddik, P.M.



R. P. Rustom Fram, P.M.



to show cause before an order of expulsion was passed. (*Note.*—The Brother being in Jail it is difficult to understand how he could show cause.) Bro. Viccaji then proposed with reference to this Grand Lodge ruling, that the convict Brother's appeals had been twice rejected and he was therefore definitely held to be guilty by the Law of the Land; that any reply he could send to a notice to show cause could only be sent through the Jail authorities and that it was most undesirable that Masonic matters should be thus published. It was resolved that the District Grand Lodge be asked to reconsider its decision.

The author's name appears for the first time as a visitor. Messrs. Aga Syed Abdulla, Subarayulu Iyah, Mirza Abdussamad  
**Nov. 6.** and Mr. Jas. Ogilvie were elected and the first three were initiated, the latter not being present. Bro. Aravamuthu Iyengar passed to the 2nd degree.

Emergent Meeting held for passing the Permanent Committee's report. The accounts had not been audited for four years,  
**Nov. 20.** and the present audit extends only over the last 15 months.

On 30th June, 1890, there were in the hands of the Treasurer, Rs. 122 14 3  
 The collections since then were ... .. „ 1,355 6 0  
 Rs. 1,478 4 3  
 The expenditure had been ... .. „ 1,282 14 5  
 leaving a balance in hand of ... .. Rs. 195 5 10  
 Balance in Benevolent fund ... .. „ 120 0 0

There was, however, the very large sum of Rs. 1,184-7-10 as arrears due by present and resigned members. Resolved, that two "chronic brethren-debtors" owing Rs. 187 and Rs. 80 respectively be called upon to show cause at the next Meeting.

Certain alterations in the Bye-laws were also recommended and were deferred to the next Regular Meeting for discussion. A building most kindly offered by Bro. Rajah Murli Manohar for use as a Lodge having been found unsuitable, the offer was declined with a vote of thanks.

The S. W., Capt. O. Boardman put forward a scheme for raising a loan of Rs. 6,000 on debentures of Rs. 50 each which was deferred for future discussion.

Lieut. W. Moss was elected and initiated, together with Rajah Bhagwan Sahai, Gopal Persad and Mr. H. R. Ogilvie. Bros.  
**Dec. 4.** Aga Syed Abdulla, Subarayalu Iyah and Abdussamad were passed to the 2nd degree and Bro. Aravamuthu Iyengar raised to the 3rd degree. The two "chronic" defaulters having failed to reply were excluded and their names reported.

Emergent Meeting. Messrs. Tirath Ram and Abbas Khan were initiated, having been previously elected. Bro. Abdus-samad raised to the 3rd degree under dispensation.  
**Dec. 18.** Revision of Bye-laws submitted for sanction.

Bro. Wadia affiliated. Bros. Ogilvie and Moss passed to the 2nd degree. There being sufficient funds the Jewels voted to  
**Jan. 1, 1892.** Wor. Bros. Anant Kishan Rao and Viccaji were ordered.

Emergent Meeting. Bros. Rajah Bhagwan Sahai and Gopal Persad were passed to the 2nd degree, and Bros. Syed Abdulla and Subarayalu Iyah raised to the 3rd degree, after which  
**Jan. 15.** Rajah Gur Karan was initiated. The death of H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence was announced. The Lodge was put into mourning and a vote of condolence was passed.

Bro. Ben Johnson challenged the legality of the procedure at the Emergent Meeting. Out of 20 votes taken, 11 were  
**Feb. 5.** for the S. W., Bro. O. Boardman as Worshipful Master, and 7 for Bro. W. Johnson.

Emergent Meeting. Bros. Ogilvie and Moss were  
**Feb. 19.** raised to the 3rd degree.

Installation day. Lodge opened in the morning and photographed. The writer of these memoirs was balloted for and  
**March 12.** affiliated. He was then Worshipful Master of Lodge Morland. Bro. Aga Mirza Abbas Khan passed to the 2nd degree and Bros. Bhagwan Sahai and Rai Gopal Persad raised to the 3rd degree. At 6 in the evening another photograph was taken. The installation of Bro. Boardman was performed by Wor. Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher. Bro. Ben Johnson pronounced a long eulogium upon the outgoing Worshipful Master who indeed seems to have had a very prosperous year. This worthy Brother is always in evidence, but his speeches are distinguished not so much for profundity as for words which often have no meaning; as a specimen I may quote his last sentence in the speech on this occasion: "Let us expect, of which there is not a particle of doubt, that the experience of the past will have the experience of the present."

A P. M. jewel was voted to the retiring Master and a Treasurer's jewel to Wor. Bro. Huggins. Forty rupees voted to the orphanages.

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[There now occurs a gap of eight years, the book containing the Minutes of the Proceedings of that period being apparently lost. Almost all the old familiar names have disappeared and the Worshipful Master is

Bro. H. E. Tripp of H. H. the Nizam's medical service. Wor. Bro. G. F. Turner, a very old Mason (initiated in 1863) and a P. M. is acting as S. W., Bro. W. W. Moss as J. W., Bro. J. E. Lee as Secretary, G. G. Moss as S. D., Mahomed Siddick as Treasurer and Bro. Taylor as Tyler.]

\* \* \* \*

An Installation day. During this interval the Lodge has invested Rs. 500 in the Morland Assembly Rooms, 6 % debentures. **June 1, 1900.** The break-up, as narrated in the history of that Lodge, has occurred. The Assembly Rooms have been sold to the Commandant of the Nizam's forces as a Mess-house, and the Lodge continues to hold its Meetings in the School-house. Correspondence has commenced with the Receiver of the Assembly Rooms regarding the recovery of the Rs. 500 paid for debentures, and the subject is discussed at this Meeting.

It was decided to ask District Grand Lodge whether the Lodge has power to grant certificates of Past rank in the Lodge itself, either separately or by endorsement on the Grand Lodge Certificate. Wor. Bro. Tripp is installed for the second time in the Chair, the ceremony being performed by Wor. Bro. Turner. There are 10 members and 14 visitors. Bro. W. W. Moss is installed as S. W., J. E. Lee as J. W. and G. G. Moss as S. D. and Mahomed Siddick as Treasurer; the other appointments being deferred.

Bro. Capt. W. Boardman elected as rejoining member, and Dr. **July 6.** Ahmed Mirza (Nizam's Service) for initiation. The S. W. resigns and Bro. Capt. W. Boardman is appointed in his place. Bro. Moss, who has just resigned the S. W. Chair, is re-appointed as Secretary. Dr. Ahmed Mirza was then initiated.

**July 27.** Bro. Ahmed Mirza passed to 2nd degree.

**Sept. 7.** Lieut. Kelly elected and Bro. Ahmed Mirza raised to 3rd degree.

**Oct. 5.** Lieut. M. Kelly initiated.

Mr. G. Cornish, Engineer, was elected and initiated. From the **Nov. 2.** Permanent Committee's report it appears that the Lodge has now a surplus balance of Rs. 813-10-1.

**Dec. 1.** Emergent Meeting and Lodge of Instruction in the 1st degree.

**Dec, 7.** Nothing of importance.

The S. W. announces that he has been able to recover a first payment of Rs. 350 on account, in respect to the Rs. 700 **Jan. 4, 1901.** due on the debentures. Dispensation for initiating Mr. T. Tripp, 18½ years of age; he and Mr. H. Lee, (both sons of members of the Lodge) were initiated.

Lord Ampthill, the Governor-elect, Pro. District Grand Master of Bedfordshire, is announced as the next District Grand Master and a message from him conveying fraternal good wishes to the Lodges in general was read out. Wor. Bro. Turner was delegated to attend the Installation, the Lodge paying his expenses.

A vote of condolence is ordered to be sent to District Grand Lodge on account of the death of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen. Bros. Strelley, Karim Khan and Harrison elected as joining members and Bros. Lee and Tripp passed to 2nd degree.

Mr. W. Cooper was elected and initiated. The S. W. (Bro. Capt. Boardman) presents the Lodge with a frame for the Charter and a coloured engraving of the M. W. the Grand Master. This worthy Brother has also taken great trouble in getting the furniture repaired and the kit renewed.

Wor. Bro. Newton elected a joining member and Bros. Cornish, Lee and Tripp raised to the 3rd degree. The balance due on the Morland debentures was again brought up and the matter referred to the S. W.

Bro. Cooper passed to 2nd degree and Bro. M. Kelly raised to 3rd degree. Bro. W. Boardman was elected as Worshipful Master. (N.B.—A most desirable selection, but scarcely quite regular since the original S. W. had first of all been installed as S. W. and had then resigned. Bro. Capt. Boardman being appointed at the next Meeting and therefore only having held the office for 11 months. It is however possible that this Brother may have qualified as a Warden during the period for which the records are missing).

An Emergent Meeting to raise Bro. Cooper. It having been proposed to elect a Second Tyler, a communication was read from District Grand Lodge to the effect that such an appointment would be illegal and could not be sanctioned. As there were precedents for the double appointment in this Lodge, it was resolved to refer the matter to the District Grand Lodge for reconsideration. (Note.—A discussion of this kind at an Emergent Meeting for a specific purpose was quite out of order.)

Bro. Capt. W. Boardman \* was installed as Worshipful Master by Wor. Bro. Newton.

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\* This worthy Brother was a highly respected member of Chadarghat Society. He was the Personal Assistant to the Head of H. H. the Nizam's Police, and belonged to a very old Chadarghat family. He showed himself to be a most zealous Mason and did a good deal for the Lodge, but unfortunately he was not spared for more than three years after his installation.

The Morland debentures came on for discussion and Wor. Bro. Gribble, who had just returned from England after a considerable absence, said that he had come with a cheque for Rs. 350 for the balance and asked the Lodge to forego the interest due; if however they insisted upon it he was prepared to pay the same out of his own pocket. After some discussion it was resolved to accept the cheque and to declare the matter settled. A local firm (Messrs. Abid & Co.,) sent a box of tinned provisions to be sold by the Lodge and the proceeds credited to the Charity fund. (*Note*.—An excellent idea which might well be followed. The gift was accepted with a vote of thanks.)

The Rajah of Domkondah very handsomely sent a donation of Rs. 60 to be expended in chairs, one half of which to belong to the Lodge and the other half to the school where the Meetings were held.

Mr. Aganoor (of Messrs. Abid & Co.) was elected and initiated. A Worshipful Master's chair was donated in memory of the P. M., Wor. Bro. Ookerjee, by the Hyderabad Banking Co., the chair being inscribed the "Ookerjee Memorial Chair." The donation was accepted with thanks. Bro. Sergius Pahlaw's name begins to appear in the Lodge as an active member. He had probably joined during the missing period and had come with recommendations from the Cairo Lodge of El-Addet.

Bro. Aganoor passed to the 2nd degree. A very important point was raised at this Meeting. Some months previously two brethren had been elected as joining members, one an active member of a Scotch Lodge working in the station, and the other a member of a Burma Lodge who had not received his Grand Lodge Certificate before he left, but which had been applied for. In both cases the District Grand Lodge held the elections to be illegal. It was therefore ordered that the elections be cancelled and the fees, etc., received be refunded. (*Note*.—Lodges in India are very apt to be careless in this respect and to *accept* brethren met elsewhere without all the necessary credentials. It was a feature of Most Wor. Bro. Lord Amptill's administration that he was most particular in exacting strict obedience to the Constitutions (No. 189) in this respect. In certain cases, such as brethren who have been suddenly transferred from a distant station after receiving one degree, it is practically impossible for them to produce a Grand Lodge Certificate, because, generally speaking, such certificates are not applied for until a Brother has taken his 3rd degree. If then he leaves his Mother-Lodge with only one degree it may take a very long time before he can be allowed to take the higher degrees in

his next station although he may be able to produce a clearance certificate, and a certificate from the Worshipful Master and Wardens of his Mother-Lodge that he has actually taken his degree. It would seem to be advisable that in the case of foreign countries an alteration in this rule should be made. It has recently happened in the experience of the writer, that a Brother who had been initiated in Madras in his presence, was immediately afterwards transferred to Hyderabad, and he at once applied for admission to a Secunderabad Lodge for his other degrees; but although he possessed the necessary credentials from his Mother-Lodge, he had not got a Grand Lodge Diploma and he therefore had to wait many months before he could be admitted to the Masonic privileges to which he was undoubtedly entitled. A rather peculiar feature in this Lodge is the constant appearance, disappearance and reappearance of names. This is to be observed in the case of all the Lodges working in this district. Brethren like bees, seem inclined to sip the honey first from one flower and then from another, and from time to time they discontinue imbibing honey at all. It is difficult to suggest a remedy for this. With fewer Lodges in a circumscribed area there might be more consistency of purpose in the members. When difficulties arise, instead of leaving their Lodge to join another, they would probably remain in order to help the difficulty over the style; but in a great many cases, in order to avoid an unpleasantness, they simply resign and join another Lodge; with the result that a year or two afterwards they come back again for the same reason.)

Bro. Dr. Karim Khan was elected as a joining member. Bro. Syed

Oct. 4. Hoossain Bilgrami (Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk) as a rejoining member and Bro. Steel as a joining member. Bro.

Aganoor raised to the 3rd degree. The Lodge continues to have a credit balance of over Rs. 800. It is resolved to renew the Regalia.

A Special Committee was called in consequence of a letter received from the District Grand Secretary. It had been incidently

Oct. 28. heard by the Secretary, in his capacity of an Officer of

the Mark Lodge, that the Deputy District Grand Master intended paying a visit to Hyderabad. It had been arranged at a Permanent Committee Meeting to give him a suitable reception; but as no letter to that effect had been received by the Lodge, nothing was recorded. Suddenly a letter arrived from the District Grand Secretary stating that as he had received no reply to a letter sent 12 days previously, announcing his visit and asking whether it would be convenient, the Deputy District Grand Master had made other arrangements. The Committee wired an explanation that no such letter had been received and the Worshipful Master also wrote explaining matters; but

the visit did not come. 'The misunderstanding was unfortunate, because visits from the District Grand Lodge are always welcome, if only from the fact that they are like angels' visits, but in this case the Lodge does not seem to have been in fault.

Tyler warned for irregular attendance. Three brethren placed on absent list. A most important communication was read  
 Nov. 1. at this Meeting from the District Grand Lodge, whose Meeting had been held at Ootacamund. Strange to say Lodge Deccan is the only Lodge in this part of the District in which the communication is recorded in the Minute Books. It was the first communication at which H. E. Lord Amphill, the District Grand Master presided and it contains reference to an exceedingly painful incident, namely, the embezzlement of no less than Rs. 27,000 of the Charity funds by the late District Grand Treasurer, who had since been convicted for the offence.

The District Grand Master's remarks on this subject were ordered to be read out in every Lodge and these are here reproduced, since they are of the utmost importance to all Masons :—

“The first matter is one to which I can only allude with the deepest pain, a feeling which I am sure that you will all share with me. A Brother, who has been so trusted and held in such high esteem by the Craft that for eleven years the high office of District Grand Treasurer was entrusted to him, has during that period been systematically deceiving us and robbing us of the funds which were destined in a great part for the widow and the orphan, and for the discharge of our great duty of Charity. He has now confessed his misdeeds and has been awarded a just punishment by the Civil Court of Judicature, and while as Masons we cannot harbour any vindictive feelings against him, we deeply deplore his faithlessness to the principles of our Order and to the solemn obligations under which he became a Brother among us. It is happily rare that similar cases of dishonesty occur among Freemasons, but this painful event ought to remind us of the important duty which is incumbent on every Mason to guard jealously the admission to our Order against everyone who is not likely to reflect credit on the Craft.

“The strength of a chain is measured by that of its weakest link, and the proudest monument of the builder's art may be brought to ruin by a single rotten stone. In the present day no institution can escape criticism, and certainly not one which like Freemasonry lays claim to high and special consideration. We need not fear criticism or enquiry if only we remain true to our principles; but let us ever remember that the world will be prone to judge us, not by the thousands of just and

upright men who range under our banners having the tongue of good report ever heard in their favour, but by the tens, the units, who are unworthy and unfit to be Masons and whom we have carelessly admitted.

“I have often noticed a tendency among Masons to measure the efficiency and prosperity of a Lodge by the annual number of initiations and consequent increase in its strength. I venture to think that this is a very dangerous and mischievous tendency and one which ought in every way to be checked.

“No ambition to enlarge our numbers, no eagerness to increase our funds, ought ever to divert us from the straight and undeviating course which should mark the footsteps of the true Mason. It is the plain duty of every Mason, at all costs, to refuse admission to our Order of the unworthy and unfitted, and still more to exercise the greatest care in the selection of worthy candidates. It is not enough that you know no evil of the man whom you propose as a candidate, you must be fully satisfied that his mind and disposition are properly attuned to Masonry. It is your duty to make him understand that ours is no Benefit Society in which he may expect to receive more than he gives, but that on the contrary, he will be expected to give and to do good to others and to conform in his everyday life to the ancient Charge which says ‘Let Prudence direct him, Temperance chasten him, Fortitude support him and Justice be the guide of all his actions.’ Thus, and thus only, can we hope to retain the high reputation which is due to our history and great traditions and to keep alive the belief that it is an honourable distinction to be a Freemason.”

Wor. Bro. Gribble brought forward a proposal, which had emanated from Lodge Mayo, for a Masonic Ball which was agreed  
Dec. 6. to and delegates were appointed to serve on the Committee.

The Lodge was opened and closed in the three degrees for purposes of instruction only, as there was no work to be done.  
Jan. 3, 1902. The present of a Worshipful Master's Chair given by Messrs. Patel Bros. was acknowledged with thanks and a rather ugly list of arrears against past officers amounting to nearly Rs. 200 was read out.

The arrears list again discussed which the Worshipful Master said he would himself take in hand. Rs. 25 voted towards a  
Feb. 7. testimonial to the retiring Deputy District Grand Master, Bro. Dunsterville. The proposed Ball was discussed.

Rt. Wor. Bro. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad\* proposed as a joining member.

The writer of these records being present for the first time as P.D.G.S.W. was formally saluted. The Ball appears to  
 March 7. have come off and was a success. It was held in the Secunderabad Gymnasium.

April 4. No business of importance. Defaulters called upon to show cause.

Strict supervision is made by District Grand Lodge and a letter was read from the Grand Secretary containing a list of 13  
 May 2. irregularities committed by various Lodges in the District of which Deccan had been found guilty of two, *viz.*, admitting members without Grand Lodge certificates, and non-submission of Summons for one Lodge Meeting. The appointment of the Hon'ble H. Bradley as Depute Grand Master is announced. Bro. Jas. E. Lee was elected Worshipful Master. Two brethren excluded for non-payment of arrears aggregating Rs. 173-8-2. From the Permanent Committee's report it appears that more than Rs. 500 had been spent during the year in renewing the regalia and restoring the Lodge furniture and it is satisfactory to find that, after all liabilities had been paid, there was a credit balance, Rs. 539-7-11 in hand. Wor. Bro. Boardman's year of office has been a successful one.

Installation day. Lodge opened in the morning for routine business,  
 June 6. Bro. Mirza Karim Khan, S. C., obligated and Mr. Sheppard nominated Tyler. In the evening, the Installation ceremony was performed by Wor. Bro. Turner.

July 4. No business of note.

A Jewel voted to Wor. Bro. Turner for his services as Secretary.  
 Aug. 1. It was proposed to hold a joint Coronation Ball in the following January in combination with the other Lodges working in Chadarghaut.

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\* It seems advisable here to make some special notice of this most worthy Brother, whose name has constantly appeared in the records of the various Lodges during the previous 20 years. He had been three times a Worshipful Master, twice in Scotch Lodges and once in Mayo. His name appears and re-appears very often as a member of the various Lodges, but that is generally due to his absence on duty. When he came back to Hyderabad in 1895 to take up the honourable position of Judge of the High Court, he was constant in his attendance, especially in Lodges Morland and Hyderabad. During the troubles of Lodge Morland in 1895-6, he, together with Rt. Wor. Bro. Moin-ud-dien, was amongst the chief mainstays, through good and evil report, and it must be a satisfaction to him and to the other esteemed Brother to find that, at the time of writing, their "labours have not been lost." These two brethren may be quoted as bright examples of Freemasons, thoroughly unselfish and devoted to the Craft. [This Brother died subsequently on 1st April, 1907.]

Sept. 5. Mr. Sheppard initiated under dispensation as a Serving Brother.

A combined Coronation Banquet having been held at Secunderabad in the previous month, a telegram of congratulation had been despatched to H. M. the King, to which the following gracious answer was recorded : "The King-Emperor commands me to thank the Freemason Lodges, Mayo, Deccan, Morland for loyal message.—EQUERRY."

Lodges St. John and Hyderabad do not appear to have joined in this demonstration.

Bro. Sheppard passed to 2nd degree. A letter was read from District Grand Lodge, stating that the Brother who had proposed

Oct. 3. Wor. Bro. Newton as joining member should be called upon to pay the joining fee, for non-payment of which and other dues this Brother had been excluded.

Bro. Sheppard raised to 3rd degree. The District Grand Lodge is exercising a very strict supervision over all proceedings

Nov. 5. and the slightest irregularity calls forth an immediate demand for explanation.

Letter read from District Grand Secretary to the effect "that a member in arrears for one month in a quarter is as much

Dec. 5. a member in arrears as a member who has not paid his subscription for the three months comprising the quarter and such a member therefore comes under the provisions of Art. 175 of the Book of Constitutions." This means that a Lodge must not pay the quarterage for a Brother who is in arrears even for one month of the quarter only. This is an important point to be noted. An appeal read from Wor. Bro. Gribble for relief to Wor. Bro. Hales, who is in a most precarious state of health. Ordered that Rs. 10 monthly be given to him for six months. Rs. 46 was also privately subscribed by the brethren. (Note.—This worthy Brother died before the expiration of the period, but it is satisfactory to find that the relief given to him by the different Lodges in his last days of illness, must have soothed his sick bed. Due provision was also made for his funeral ceremonies which took place a month later.) An appeal from the widow of late Wor. Bro. J. Kelly, for assistance in the education of her children was ordered to be suitably recommended.

Wor. Bro. Gribble resigns membership as he is proceeding to England owing to ill-health. Death of Wor. Bro. Hales

Jan. 3, 1903.

Feb. 6.

announced. Bro. T. Tripp, who is in England, nominated to represent "Deccan" at the anniversary festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys.

**March 6.** Mr. C. H. James was initiated. The Bye-laws of the Lodge finally revised.

**April 3.** Nothing of importance. Bro. James passed. Bye-laws ratified and confirmed.

Bro. James raised. Bro. Mahomed Siddik, who for the past three years has taken a very active part as Treasurer and Secretary and S. W. is elected as Worshipful Master and Bro. Raghunath Prasad as Treasurer. After all liabilities have been met, the Lodge has a balance in hand of Rs. 309-6-5.

**June 5.** Installation day. Lodge opened in the morning. After transaction of ordinary business, adjourned till the evening, when there was a large attendance of members and visitors. The Installation ceremony was performed by the retiring Master, Wor. Bro. Lee, who accepts the office of Secretary, Bro. Steel being placed on the absent list.

Nothing of importance. Amendments suggested in the Bye-laws by District Grand Lodge accepted. Wor. Bro. Lee appears to have assisted in the Installation of Rt. Wor. Master of Lodge Ekram, No. 756, S. C., at Gulbargah.

**July 3.**  
**Augt. 7.**  
**Sept. 4.**  
**Oct. 2.** A late Secretary excluded for non-payment of arrears.

Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad resigns membership. Bro. Syed Mahomed Hassan Bilgrami, S.C., obligated. The amended Bye-laws have been approved by District Grand Master, who sanctions their adoption pending confirmation by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master.

**Nov. & Dec.**  
**Jan. 2, 1904.**  
**Feb. 5.** The Report shows that the year (1903) opened with 26 members, of whom 12 were absent and closed with 23, of whom 10 were absent. Only one initiation and one affiliation during the year. Although not much work had been done, a very good tone appears to have prevailed and the members are of good standing. The Report briefly gives the work done by Past Masters of the Lodge who are active members.

Bro. T. Tripp formally appointed Steward to represent "Deccan" at the Royal Masonic Festival for Boys. Wor. Bros. Turner and Lee appear to have gone to Vizagapatam to help in the Installation of the Worshipful Master of Lodge "Waltair."

At the Regular Meeting a funeral service was held in memory of the late Worshipful Master, Bro. Walter Boardman at which **April 1.** Wor. Bros. Moinuddin, Raghunath Prasad, Syed Ahmed and Turner acted as Stewards. (Note.—This worthy Brother's loss was greatly felt by the Lodge. During the previous three or four years he had

shown great interest in the Lodge and had been in other respects of great use. He was essentially a good Mason, kind-hearted, generous and liberal minded. The writer, who was absent in England at the time, takes this opportunity of paying his affectionate respects to his memory). The other Lodges were all represented. An eloquent and solemn oration was pronounced by Wor. Bro. Lee. The text of the oration was: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither thou goest." A text most applicable to the worthy Brother and one which should be remembered by Masons generally.

Brother the Hon'ble Syed Hussain Bilgrami, Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk  
 May 6. Bahadur was elected Worshipful Master,\* and Syed  
 Mahomed Hassan Bilgrami was re-elected Treasurer.

The balance to the credit of the Lodge has been reduced from Rs. 309-6-5 to Rs. 216-14-0.

Lodge opened in the morning for ordinary business and Installation  
 June 10. ceremony performed in the evening. A very large attendance of members and 23 visitors from all the other Lodges. The ceremony was performed by the retiring Master, Wor. Bro. Mahomed Siddik.

Owing to non-attendance and paucity of members, two P. Ms. volunteered to work as Secretary and J. D. respectively and the  
 July 1. Treasurer was also appointed as S.D. The names of two defaulting brethren brought up for arrears and notices to show cause ordered to be sent.

A communication read from District Grand Lodge objecting to the  
 Augt. 5. appointment of the Treasurer to the post of S.D. and stating that it was not necessary to appoint P.Ms. to subordinate posts, as these posts might be filled from time to time by brethren present. A scheme brought forward by the Worshipful Master for building rooms for the use of the Chadarghaut Masonic Institution. (Note.—What has become of the old building fund of ten years ago?) The scheme took the form of a lottery and it was proposed to refer the matter to District Grand Lodge in order to ascertain whether there were any Masonic objections.

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\* This Brother's name has appeared in most of the Lodges in a desultory manner during the last 15 years, but it is only during the last three years that he has taken an active part. In Mayo he has worked through the grades of Deacon, Treasurer and Senior Warden and has now been elected to the chair. He had long been a prominent official in the Nizam's Government, and had occupied the post of Private Secretary to His Highness and Secretary to the State Council; he is Director of Public Instruction and a member of the Supreme Legislative Council of the Government of India.

The average attendance is now about ten members. A defaulter Brother who has left all summonses unnoticed is excluded.

Sept. 2. Bro. M. M. Kaka from Lodge Morland elected for affiliation.

Oct. 7. Circular read from the Grand Secretary, intimating that the U. G. L. E. refuses to acknowledge the body, styling itself the "Grand Lodge of Queensland" in Brisbane, as a Grand Lodge or as having any Masonic jurisdiction.

Nov. 4. Three candidates proposed for initiation.

Dec. 2. Lieut. M. Ali Mirza, M. Ahsan and Nawab Saad Jung were elected and initiated.

Bros. M. Ali Mirza and Mahomed Ahsan passed to 2nd degree. It was resolved to hold the Meetings in future at the Gosha Mahal Assembly Rooms, now used by Lodges Morland and Hyderabad for Masonic Meetings.

Feb. 3. The two brethren passed at last Meeting were raised to the 3rd degree.

March 3. Nothing of importance beyond deciding to leave the

April 7. present quarters (the Grammar School) from 30th April. Vacant offices were filled by the appointment of Bro. Kaka as S.D., Bro. M. Ali Mirza as J.D. and Bro. Mahomed Ahsan as I.G.

May 5. The Worshipful Master was re-elected to the chair for the next year. Mr. Atkinson elected for initiation.

First Meeting at the Gosha Mahal Assembly Rooms. A well-attended Meeting of members and visitors. Mr. Atkinson was initiated; after which the Worshipful Master was proclaimed without the usual ceremony of Installation. (*Note.*—There having been no break in the tenure of office, the District Grand Lodge ruled that another ceremony of Installation was not absolutely necessary; but the ceremony forms such an important part of the working of the Craft, and is so instructive that the addresses and charges were given *in extenso* by Wor. Bro. Lee.)

July 7. Bro. Atkinson passed to the 2nd degree; Bro. Adolphus re-admitted a member, and Bro. Sheppard resigned.

Augt. 4. Bro. Atkinson raised to 3rd degree.

Sept. 15. Emergent Meeting to initiate Mr. Leonard.

Sept. 22. Another Emergent Meeting to pass Bro. Leonard.

Another Emergent Meeting to raise the same Brother, these Meetings having been held under dispensation. (*Note.*—The Minutes seem to have been very irregularly entered

in the book, because after the record of the above three Emergent Meetings, the last being on 30th September, we come upon the Minutes of a Regular Meeting held on 1st September.)

Sept. 1. Mr. Robbins was elected and initiated; decided to pay the Tyler Rs. to a month, which includes carriage hire.

Bro. Robbins passed to 2nd degree. It was resolved to participate in the Memorial to be presented to H. E. Lord Amphill, who would retire from office in the following February.

No Meeting in November.

It was resolved to join in the address to H. H. the Nizam on the occasion of his Jubilee. The address had originally been proposed by Lodge Morland, and, on the matter being referred to the District Grand Master, it met with his cordial approval, whereupon the other Lodges all agreed to join. Wor. Bro. Gribble, on behalf of Lodge Morland, being present explained what it was proposed to do. It was unanimously agreed to join. An account of this function will be found elsewhere. A sum of Rs. 20 voted as a Christmas gift to the Home for the aged poor.

At this stage we close the record of Lodge Deccan. Its earlier years form rather a stormy record but for the last few years it has been in smoother waters. There are many lessons to be learnt between the lines of the record, which will no doubt be apparent to those who have taken the trouble to read through it. We have now finished the history of the three English Lodges. Each of them has been distinguished at one stage or the other by dissensions, but it is rather a singular coincidence, that whereas the last five years of H. E. Lord Amphill's period of office as District Grand Master has been marked by a very much increased supervision of District Grand Lodge in the working of the different Lodges, and irregularities have been sharply reprimanded, the period is remarkable for a much greater unanimity and absence of quarrels than there had been previously. A final message of farewell greeting from the three Lodges was sent to Lord Amphill to meet him at Wadi Railway Station on his way Home in February 1906, to which a most cordial reply was received saying that "the kindness of Madras Masons would never fade," and wishing them "farewell and fraternal greetings."

## LODGE MORLAND, No. 569, S.C.

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Until 1872 Lodge St. John was the only Craft Lodge working in the several Cantonments extending from Chadarghaut to Bolarum, a distance of about 11 miles, comprising one of the largest Military Stations in India and a constantly increasing population of civilians. Lodge Mayo was started in 1872 with the view of meeting the requirements of Trimulgherry and Bolarum, the former being the headquarters of two European Infantry and one European Cavalry Regiment, and the latter the principal station of the Hyderabad Contingent with its large staff of European officers. Mayo commenced working in Trimulgherry, and there was at first some soreness felt by St. John that a rival Lodge should be started in so close a neighbourhood (about 3 miles). Very soon afterwards, however, Mayo not being able to find suitable quarters, obtained leave to work in the St. John's building, and experience has shown that there is ample room for both Lodges. There has always been a certain amount of rivalry between them, but on the whole it has been a healthy one. With the changes in the regiments there have generally been fluctuations, and on the arrival of a new regiment the Masons generally joined in a body one or the other of the Lodges, bringing with them of course fresh recruits. St. John has generally been a Lodge of mixed Military and Civilian elements, whereas Mayo has preserved an essentially Military character, and has with certain exceptional periods been generally recruited from the Non-Commissioned ranks. Both Lodges have from time to time received Indian brethren, but as a rule—with some notable exceptions such as Wor. Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher—they did not remain permanently, but appeared, disappeared, and then sometimes reappeared. In May 1875 a Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Scotland for the opening of a Scotch Lodge at Secunderabad in the names of W. B. Johnston as Rt. Wor. Master; Maurice H. Wilkinson, Depute Master; Charles Kirkman, Substitute Master; Charles B. Dunlop, S.W.; I. H. Taylor, J.W.; A. P. Mergler, Treasurer; J. Houlihan, Secretary; J. Kirby, S.D.; H. de Q. Sewell, J.D., etc. Although in the Charter the name of Wor. Bro. W. B. Johnston is entered as that of the first Worshipful Master, Bro. Maurice Wilkinson according to the Lodge list was the first. He was one of the principal

founders of this Lodge and held at that time a very prominent position in Chadarghaut Society, being the Secretary to the Nizam's Government in the D. P. W. and the leading member of the racing community. He was also a great friend of Sir Henry Morland the Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and accordingly the new Scotch Lodge was called after him "Lodge Morland." It now seems to have been a pity that instead of making Secunderabad its meeting-place the founders did not select Chadarghaut. Neither of the English Lodges were pleased at the arrival of a third Lodge working under a different Constitution and for many years the Lodge had some difficulty in finding suitable premises for working. For a short time they were allowed to meet in the St. John's building, but dissensions arose, and they received notice to quit, and for several years afterwards the Lodge met first in one place and then in another until at last a reconciliation took place and Morland held its Meetings in the St. John's Masonic Rooms. until in 1893 it built a hall of its own in Chadarghaut. Lodge Morland was opened with a considerable amount of pomp and ceremony and for many years had a fair number of members from all classes and ranks of Society. Europeans, Hindus, Mahomedans and Parsees were all well represented, and the Lodge was certainly a popular one, and has always had the character of a mixed and representative Lodge.

It is greatly to be regretted that we are faced with the same difficulty in regard to Lodge Morland that we have met with in the case of other Lodges in this District. Here again the first Minute Books are missing. Fortunately, however, in the last issue of the Bye-laws, which are dated 1893, when the present writer was Master of the Lodge, there exists a list of all the members elected from 1875 up to the date of publication together with a list of the Rt. Wor. Masters and Officers compiled from the records as they then existed. From 1875 to 1893 no less than 219 members joined the Lodge, but the names are for the most part short-lived and are constantly reappearing. About the year 1890 the Lodge had acquired a definite status and was numerically strong with about 35 members. In 1891 (December) the present writer was elected as Rt. Wor. Master and held that office for two years in succession. During this period the Lodge had a "boom." It increased very largely in numbers until in 1893 it numbered more than 90. During these two years there were no less than three visits made from the Grand Lodge of Scotland and there can be no doubt that the large accession of members was due in a great measure to the interest displayed by the higher authorities in the local Lodges. Early in 1892 it had been resolved to build a Lodge in Chadarghaut. A splendid site was selected and granted by the Nizam's Government in a very central

position, near the Futteh Maidan Gymkhana ground. The Foundation Stone was laid in June 1892 by the Prime Minister, the Nawab Sir Asman Jah, and a delegation from the Grand Lodge in Bombay, and in December 1893 the building was consecrated by the Grand Master of A. S. F. I. and a banquet was held after the installation of the new Master, Rt. Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens in the palace of Sir Asman Jah, at which more than 100 members and guests were present. More than Rs. 20,000 were spent on the building which was of stone, the lower part being reserved for dining and reception rooms, and the upper for Lodge purposes. As the building was intended for the use of all the Masonic Bodies working in Chadarghaut at the time, *viz.*, three Craft Lodges, one Chapter of the Holy R. A. and one Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor, a very extensive kit and furniture was ordered out from England. The money required for this was advanced by a Hyderabad capitalist on debentures bearing 6 per cent. interest, which were to be paid off by the surplus funds of the various institutions. Lodge Morland itself and the Chapter were able to at once provide Rs. 7,600 and as the income from the different bodies amounted to about Rs. 500 a month, the whole scheme seemed to be thoroughly sound.

Schiller in the Song of the Bell sings :

“ But with the powers of weal or woe  
No man can reckon here below—and this, alas !,  
Misfortune hastens fast ”

was the case with Lodge Morland. The great success of the last two years had been mainly due to the zeal and energy of the S. Warden, Bro. A. H. Stevens and of the Secretary, Bro. A. N. Templeton. Bro. A. H. Stevens succeeded the writer as Rt. Wor. Master and in his turn was succeeded by Bro. A. N. Templeton. As might be expected a re-action followed after the boom. There were many withdrawals and resignations of what I may term “opportunists,” but the Lodge continued to be numerically very strong and was well able to pay its way. But in the middle of 1895 dissensions occurred. A rift in the lute led in the sequel to a terrible gulf. Passions were excited, Masonic principles forgotten, and the result was that the election of a Worshipful Master-elect was cancelled, and in 1896 the Worshipful Master still in charge of the Lodge was suspended. Throughout this quarrel the present writer, was, he grieves to say, a principal actor, first of all on the defensive and afterwards in self-defence on the aggressive. Subsequently he was, by orders of the Grand Lodge, placed in charge of Morland, but the victory was a Pyrrhic one, and the Lodge was in ruins. A few remained to keep it together, but the Lodge was no longer able to meet its liabilities. The most respectable members, shocked at what had occurred, resigned—“opportunists” disappeared and failed to pay up

their arrears, and finally the building had to be sold in order to meet the claims of the debenture holders. It is now occupied as a Mess House for the Officers of H. H. the Nizam's forces. The Lodge saved its kit and furniture and was fortunately able to find accommodation in a most suitable building, an old royal palace, known as the *Gosha Mahal Baradari*, where it is still working, together with the other Chadarghaut Masonic Institutions. There was however one satisfactory result of this deplorable incident. Masonic principles, for the time forgotten, afterwards reasserted themselves and in the end,—after the mischief had been done—there was reconciliation and forgiveness. There is in this incident a lesson to all of us to “moderate the passions, an excess of which distorts and disfigures the very soul.”

The loss of the early books prevents me from giving a detailed history of the first proceedings of Lodge Morland. For obvious reasons I have deemed it advisable to allude to the incident of 1895-6 in a vague manner, although from a historical point of view it could not be entirely ignored. I shall therefore commence the history of Lodge Morland from the time when it has reached smoother waters.

In the middle of 1896 the present writer, under an order from the Grand Lodge in Bombay, took charge of the Lodge until a new Worshipful Master could be elected. Affairs were then in a very critical condition. Many of the members had resigned, for several months no collections had been made or surplus funds handed over to the debenture holders; the Chapter had fallen into abeyance and there seemed to be no chance of meeting the liabilities incurred in the building and the purchase of the extensive kit and paraphernalia for the use of the different Masonic Institutions. The Trustees had placed the affairs of the building into the hands of a Receiver, and the only thing left was to find a purchaser. This, however, was no easy matter, since more than Rs. 30,000 had been spent on the building alone, apart from the kit and paraphernalia which had cost about Rs. 10,000. But gloomy though the outlook was, a few of the old members determined to do their best to save the Lodge from extinction and if possible to pay off the liabilities. Chief among these were Bro. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad, now a Judge of H. H. the Nizam's High Court; Bro. Sheik Mahomed Moinuddin, a pleader; Bro. A. G. Fellowes; Bro. Pestonji Jivanji, and the present writer. In December 1896 Bro. A. G. Fellowes, the Assistant Inspector-General of the Nizam's District Police, was elected Worshipful Master and during the following year it was resolved to sell the new building, as the revenue from the Lodge was not sufficient to meet the liabilities. Eventually the building was sold to Col. Afsar-ul-Mulk, the Commandant of H. H.'s Regular Troops and Imperial Horse as a Mess House for the

officers and permission was given to the Lodge to occupy the former Mess House situated in the Gosha Mahal. The new premises contained a fine large Lodge and dining rooms, but it is a little bit removed from the centre of Chadarghaut and is about 6 miles distant from Secunderabad. Owing to this distance there have, since its removal, been comparatively few European members and the Lodge has consisted principally of Mahomedans, Hindus and Parsees.

Owing to the absence of the Rt. Wor. Master on plague duty the writer was in the chair. There was an attendance of 14, of whom 11 were members. Bro. Pestonji Nov. 1897. Jiwanji was elected as Rt. Wor. Master and Bro. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad as Treasurer, an office which he has continued to fill with one or two intervals with great benefit to the Lodge up to the present day. For some time to come the affairs of the Lodge formed the chief subject of discussion and various plans were proposed and fell through. It seems unnecessary to go into the details here and I shall therefore reserve further mention of them until the matter is finally settled. Rt. Wor. Bro. A. H. Stevens was proposed as a rejoining member and also Bro. Fazil Mooraj.

Installation of Bro. Pestonji with 18 members and 16 visitors. It had always been a tradition with this Lodge to be Dec. 21. liberal with the invitations on Installation night and an extra fee of Rs. 7 was charged to every resident member whether he attended or not in order to meet the cost. The Installation ceremony was performed by Rt. Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad, who, from this time forward, becomes one of the prominent members of Chadarghaut Masonry.

The matter of arrears formed the subject of discussion ; and although the Lodge had a numerically strong muster-roll, the collections left much to be desired and indeed for some Jan. 28. years this formed a great defect of the Lodge and the burden of maintaining fell mainly upon the shoulders of a few members who continued to be punctual. The Rev. Mr. Johnston was invested as Junior Warden. Owing to a misunderstanding during the troubled years of 1895-96 the standing invitation to the Master and Wardens of Deccan has been cancelled. This was now rectified and the two Lodges again met on an amicable footing. Bro. Rajah Ganesh Prasad proposed as a rejoining member. Bro. Drew was elected as a joining member, and Bro. Martanda Varma Rajah, the First Prince of Travancore, was received as a visitor (February). Mr. Kareem Sajjan Lall was proposed as a candidate in March and was initiated at the next Meeting. Bros. Ansar Ali and

Khaikhusroo Tamuljee Modi were elected as joining members. This business has occupied the Lodge during the Meetings of February, March, April and May.

The death of Wor. Bro. W. T. Newitt of Madras, an Honorary Member of the Lodge, was announced and a letter of condolence ordered to be sent to his family.

June 24.

July. Nothing of importance.

Bro. Haji Sajjan Lall passed to 2nd degree. It was resolved to give an address to H. H. the Nizam on the occasion of his birthday.

Augt. 26.

At the latter Meeting the report of the Standing Committee on the finances of the Lodge was read. This showed a credit balance of Rs. 718-1-6, of which Rs. 300 were sent to the Receiver and it was resolved to move the Lodge quarters to the Gosha Mahal Assembly Rooms, and pending the sale of the building, to rent it to the Officer Commanding the Nizam's Troops as a Mess House at Rs. 100 per month, the rent being paid to the Receiver.

Sept. 23 and  
Oct. 14.

Nov. 25.

Bro. Moinuddien elected Rt. Wor. Master.\*

Installation. A largely-attended Meeting of over 27. Bro. Piyari Lall (afterwards appointed to Indore as Justice) elected. Installation ceremony performed by Rt. Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad. Three members of Lodge Hyderabad proposed as joining members, viz., Maharajah Murli Manohar, Rajah Bhagwan Sahai and Nawab Gulam Jilani Khan, also Bro. R. P. Rustom Fram. A collection of Rs. 51 was made in the Lodge towards the Bombay Benevolent Fund.

Dec. 21.

Twelve members and two visitors. The brethren proposed at the last Meeting were all elected. Bros. Dittia, Wadia and Popat proposed as joining members.

Jan. 29, 1899.

Feb. 24, 1900. The attendance about the same.

March 24.

April 28.

May 26.

Nothing of importance.

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\* This worthy Brother's name has for the last 7 years been very prominent in the Lodge. He worked his way steadily through all the degrees, and throughout all the troubles was a staunch supporter of the Lodge without being a partizan. Punctual in attendance, prompt in his payments and full of Masonic zeal, he forms an admirable example of a worthy Mason. He has also taken the highest honours in the Royal Arch and the Secret Monitor and with Rt. Wor. Bro. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad forms a mainstay of Hyderabad Masonry.

The Minutes of the Standing Committee held on the 5th, 8th, 12th and 22nd May, recorded at this Meeting contain an abstract of the history of the building of the Lodge Morland Assembly Rooms (now unfortunately passed into other hands), and of the negotiations carried on after the appointment of a Receiver. The Committee which submitted the report consisted of Wor. Bro. Moinuddien as President, Bro. Jehangir Jamsedji as S. W. and the present writer, who had been one of the Trustees. It appears from this that Rs. 37,400 had been raised on debentures, of which Rs. 7,600 had been paid for by the Lodge and the Chapter. The Receiver (Mr. Shapurji Edalji Chinai) who held the great majority of the remaining debentures was therefore liable to the outside debenture holders for Rs. 29,800. There was also a balance due to the building contractor of Rs. 2,984-13-4, against which the Receiver had been paid Rs. 2,000 as rent for the building. The military authorities now offered to buy the building with fixtures for Rs. 30,000 so that the Receiver would be left with Rs. 32,000 with which to pay off Rs. 32,784-13-4 as liabilities. These liabilities having been paid, the Receiver would still be left with a deficit of Rs. 7,600 on account of the debentures he would have to pay. The Lodge proposed to make up this deficit, to waive all claims for any cash for its debentures and to take over the whole of the furniture and regalia which had cost upwards of Rs. 17,000 in return for its debentures. This sum for kit appears large but is not really so when it is remembered that a very handsome set of Lodge furniture for the Craft and R. A. degrees had been imported from England together with kit and regalia for six degrees, and chairs, tables, crockery, lamps, cutlery, etc., sufficient for 80 members. The sale of the building had been a very profitable one since the price realized was considerably more than the cost incurred, and in this way the balance paid for the kit was greatly recouped. The building was actually sold and transferred; but it took many years before the accounts with the Receiver were settled, in fact at the time of writing the negotiations are still pending. The point at issue between the Receiver and the Lodge was, whether the latter should not pay more for the kit, regalia, etc., and many years were occupied before this point was finally decided.

At the latter Meeting the deaths were announced of the late Master, Wor. Bro. A. G. Fellowes and of the Grand Master of all June and July. Scottish Freemasonry in India, M. Wor. Bro. C. I. Smith. The Lodge was put in mourning for three months and a funeral service was held.

The question between the Lodge and the Receiver again came up Augt. for discussion. The writer had gone Home, and it was resolved to refer the matter to an arbitrator. The

writer returned in the middle of 1901 to find the question still unsettled. The arbitration fell through, the writer again went Home in 1903 and returned after two years' absence to find things in *statu quo*. Since then the matter has again been taken up and it is hoped that a satisfactory conclusion will at last be reached.

Nothing of importance. At the latter Meeting Mr. M. M. Kaka was initiated and Rajah Bhagwan Sahai Bahadur was elected Rt. Wor. Master.

Sept., Oct., Nov. A very largely-attended Meeting, the Installation ceremony being performed as usual by Rt. Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad.

Dec. 21. Rt. Wor. Bro. T. Srinivasacharya appears for the first time as a member since 1892. He had been initiated in Morland in March 1887; but on his transfer to Gulbargah in October of that year his name had been transferred to the Absent List. In Gulbargah he had become Worshipful Master of Lodge Ekram of the Scotch Constitution, and now on his return to headquarters at once rejoined the Resident List of his mother-Lodge. He was on this occasion appointed Secretary and for the next five years took a very prominent part in all the Masonic Institutions working in Chadarghat, rising to the highest honours in each. He earned especial credit as a Secretary, and during his time the Lodge reached a sound financial basis, although the arrear list as regards certain members continued to increase. The European element in the Lodge has now almost entirely disappeared.

The death of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria was announced by Wor. Bro. Moinuddien who was acting in the absence of the Rt. Wor. Master. A very feeling speech was made by the Rt. Wor. Bro. in the chair and a vote of sorrow and sympathy was proposed, seconded and carried in solemn silence. The Lodge then adjourned, having been put into mourning and a copy of the proceedings ordered to be sent to the Grand Lodge.

Jan. 24, 1901. Mr. R. D. Toorkey initiated.

Mr. S. R. Master initiated and Bro. Toorkey passed to 2nd degree. Rajahs Lochan Chand and Guru Karan proposed for initiation, also Mr. M. Mahomed Ali.

March 28. Mr. Mahomed Ali not being acquainted with English his ballot was deferred and he was invited to join Lodge Hyderabad which works in Urdu. Bro. Master was passed to 2nd degree and Rajah Guru Karan was initiated and Bro. Toorkey raised to 3rd degree.

April 25. Bro. Rajah Guru Karan was passed to the 2nd degree and Bro. S. R. Master raised to 3rd degree.

May 23.



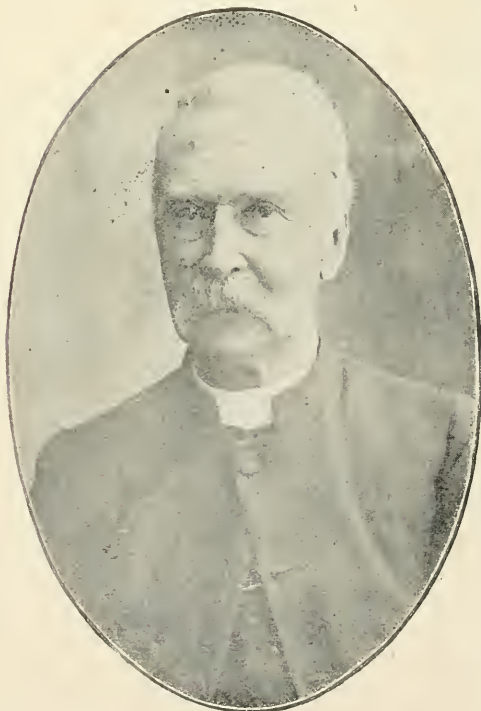
H. J. H. Panthaky, P.S.W.



R Vasudeva Rau, P.M.



R. D. Toorkey, P.J.W.



S. H. Johnston, P.J.W.



Rajah Lochan Chand was initiated. The writer having just returned from England was kindly welcomed back. A proposal was brought forward at this Meeting that there should be an amalgamation of the two Lodges, Morland and Hyderabad. The latter Lodge had been founded in 1893 with the idea of conferring the degrees in Urdu and with this object in view the ritual had been very carefully translated by Rt. Wor. Bro. Moinuddien. But as a matter of fact the members of Lodge Hyderabad were drawn almost entirely from the Indian members of Morland, and the burden of maintaining two Lodges became a heavy one, unless, as unfortunately occurred in several instances, the dues were allowed to fall into arrears. With the experience which the writer has now gained, he would certainly not again advocate the formation of a Lodge to consist exclusively of Indian brethren. The ritual and discipline is apt to get lax, and the attendance is very uncertain. A certain amount of European element appears to be necessary in order to keep the Lodge up to a high standard of efficiency. The writer does not wish to be understood as casting any reflection upon Hindu, Mahomedan, or Parsee brethren, amongst whom there are many bright Masonic examples, as will be seen from this record, but I think the best of them will admit the truth of this remark. I may mention here that the proposal to amalgamate fell through, and though again raised three years afterwards, has not as yet been carried out. Lodge Hyderabad still exists, but in a somewhat anæmic condition and shows but few signs of vitality.

Scotch Freemasonry sustained a serious loss during this month through the death of Rt. Wor. Bro. C. D. Wise, the Grand Secretary. He was well known in Hyderabad where he had visited all the Lodges on several occasions during 1894 and 1895. He was very highly respected by all Masons here, and the writer wishes to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to his memory. At the Meeting of 22nd August the Lodge voted a contribution of Rs. 25 towards the Masonic purse which it was proposed to present to Mrs. Wise. It may be here mentioned that this worthy Brother was succeeded in his office by his son, Rt. Wor. Bro. A. W. Wise, who has proved himself a most competent inheritor of his father's mantle.

Nothing of importance occurred during September and October, except that we find from the report of the Standing Committee that there was a cash balance of Rs. 385-5-8. The arrears list was very heavy. Three names of brethren, whose whereabouts were unknown, were struck off, 12 brethren were written to and 9 others were directed to show cause why they should not be excluded.

At the *November Meeting* the old question of difference with the Morland Receiver was discussed and it was again decided to refer the matter to arbitration. Rt. Wor. Bro. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad was elected as Master—this being the second time that he had held that office. A communication was read from the Grand Lodge discountenancing the so-called “short method” of opening and closing the F. C. and M. M. Degrees.

Installation Meeting under a special dispensation. A very large attendance of upwards of fifty members and visitors.  
 Jan. 23, 1902. The ceremony was performed by the retiring Master who was congratulated on the way he performed it as also on the success of this year of office, the balance to the credit of the Lodge being Rs. 800. A P. M. jewel was presented to Bro S. M. Moinuddien and a Jewel was voted to the retiring Master.

There is scarcely anything of importance to record during this year. The Lodge was working in harmony, the attendance was fair, and although there were few accessions to its strength, the financial condition was improving (Rs. 841 in hand). In August a circular was read regarding the re-opening of the Royal Arch Chapter. A dinner was also held together with Lodges Mayo, Deccan and Hyderabad in commemoration of H. M. King Edward's Coronation. Owing to the *Ramzan* fast occurring in December it was resolved to obtain a dispensation for an election to be held at a Special Meeting in November and the installation on the day of the Regular Meeting, 27. The cash balance of the Lodge continued to be the same (Rs. 844-4-3), but the arrears have crept up to over Rs. 2,000. Wor. Bro. F. D. Wadia was elected Master for the ensuing year and was installed on the 27th November by the retiring Master. There was a large attendance as usual but nothing of importance occurred.

Rt. Wor. Bro. A. N. Templeton having been restored to his Masonic privileges was asked to serve on the long standing Arbitration Committee, Rt. Wor. Bro. Raghunath Prasad having resigned as being a Judge of the High Court the matter might possibly come before him officially. (Note.—From the Standing Committee's report it appears that the cash balance has been reduced to Rs. 559, and that the arrears list is still increasing.)  
 Jan. 22, 1903.

The writer being about to proceed to England on account of ill-health, a very kindly vote of thanks was recorded for the services which he had rendered to the Lodge, and in consideration of his not—owing to bad health—having been able to attend the dinners for nearly a year, one half of his dues were remitted and a clearance certificate granted in consideration of a cheque having been received for the remaining half.  
 Feb. 26.

A rather curious incident occurred at this Meeting which is of interest as showing the mistaken idea that prevails in many Lodges regarding the "inviolability of the ballot."

March 26.

A Brother was reprimanded for having "pried into the ballot-box" and was told that only four Brethren had the right of seeing the contents of the ballot-tray, namely, the teller (J. D.), the two Wardens and the Rt. Wor. Master. The "inviolability of the *secrecy* of the ballot" refers to the actual voting. The box should be so constructed and so placed in the Lodge that it is impossible to see whether a Brother voting places a black or a white ball in the hole leading to the tray. As regards the results it is a matter of indifference. For the sake of convenience, instead of showing the tray to each member of the Lodge, the J. D. merely shows it to the Wardens and the Worshipful Master, who declare it to be "clear" or "foul" as the case may be. There can be no reason why every member present should not know the actual number of white or of black balls. The point is alluded to here, because on one occasion when the writer as a P. M. was sitting next to the Junior Warden and the tray was shown to the latter officer, he referred to the writer and asked whether the black balls in it constituted a foul. Thereupon, being appealed to, the writer looked in the tray and gave the answer, but was afterwards severely reprimanded by the Rt. Wor. Master "for having violated the secrecy of the ballot." The writer in this case was not to blame. The number of black balls required to exclude depends upon the bye-laws. The J. W. not remembering the bye-law appealed to the P. M. for information, and he was therefore perfectly justified in satisfying himself whether the ballot was "clear" or "foul." The "secrecy of the ballot," *i.e.*, who had placed the black or the white balls was in no way violated. In this case the writer's explanation tendered to the Right Worshipful Master was not accepted and the reprimand was put upon record. This incident occurred several years before in the same Lodge, the proceedings of which are now being recorded.

April 23.

Messrs. Hormusji A. Kandawala and Ramyar A. Itchapooria were initiated and two joining brethren were proposed.

June 25.

Mr. Hormusjee J. H. Panthaki, the Manager of the Secunderabad Commercial and Banking Company, was proposed as a candidate.

Nawabs Syed Ali Mahomed Khan and Asad Ali Khan were elected and initiated. The question of amalgamation with

July 23.

Lodge Hyderabad was again raised and two members were appointed to meet the Hyderabad brethren in consultation.

**Augt. 3.** An Emergent Meeting to raise Bros. Itchapooria and Kandawala to the 3rd degree.

The remainder of the year was occupied in 'conferring the various degrees upon the candidates proposed and elected; but nothing of importance beyond the ordinary routine occurred. (*Note.*—The cash balance of the Loge has risen to Rs. 1,018-8-4, but the arrears have been increasing and approach to Rs. 3,000.)

**Nov. 26.** Bro. N. D. Dittia elected Right Worshipful Master by 12 votes against 10 for Bro. M. M. Kaka and installed on 21st December by Rt. Wor. Bro. Moinuddin—at a well attended Meeting at which however nothing of importance occurred.

**Jan. 1904.** A P.M.'s jewel was voted to Rt. Wor. Bro. T. Srinivasacharya for his services as Secretary during the last three years. He declined but was persuaded to accept it.

**Feb. 25.** Bro. Nawab Mir Asad Ali Khan was raised to the 3rd degree, Rt. Wor. Bro. Moinuddin occupying the chair.

**March and April.** The cash balance to the credit of the Lodge amounts to Rs. 1,969-11-3, which is extremely satisfactory, but the heavy arrears list has increased rather than diminished. The subscriptions and fees to this Lodge are very high and whereas a few of the brethren are very punctual in their payments, others are not and allow their arrears to go on accumulating. Many of the brethren in arrears occupy high social and official positions, and the Lodge seems reluctant to enforce the bye-laws. The matter with the Receiver still remains unsettled and it seems to be inevitable that sooner or later a day of reckoning with the defaulters must come. A letter of condolence sent to the writer of these annals on the death of his son-in-law, Bro. Baron Von Rosenberg, who had been made a Mason in Morland and remained a member for many years, although absent.

**ay.** A P. M. jewel was presented to Rt. Wor. Bro. T. Srinivasacharya for the services rendered as Secretary during the past three years, an honour which he had richly deserved, as evidenced by the satisfactory state of the cash balance. It must however be remarked that for many years very little has been spent in charity. The Meetings continue to be held monthly with a fair attendance of from 10—15 members. Nothing of importance however occurs beyond the affiliation of two or three brethren, amongst them Bro. A. D. MacDonald, until 24th November when Bro. R. P. Rustom Fram was elected Rt. Wor. Master. This worthy Brother had for several years been a constant and zealous attendant of the Lodge and

had helped in raising it during its time of adversity. Bro. Nadirshah A. Pilcher, the son of late Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher, whose name has been so often mentioned, was elected as Tyler *vice* Bro. Milligan, resigned.

**Dec. 21.** A large attendance as usual for the installation which was performed by the retiring Master.

**Jan. 26, 1905.** Lodge Deccan asks to be allowed to hold its Meetings in the Gosha Mahal Assembly Rooms on payment of a rent of Rs. 10 monthly. Bro. Hafiz Moinuddien Ahmad proposed for affiliation and Mr. R. Vasudeva Rau, Senior Assistant Revenue Secretary, for initiation. The cash balance is reduced to Rs. 1,403-9-0 and the arrears list has risen to over Rs. 3,000.

**Feb. and March.** At the latter Meeting the writer happened to be passing through the station and visited the Lodge. He was kindly asked to take the chair and to initiate Mr. Vasudeva Rau.

**April and May.** Nothing of importance. Bro. Vasudeva Rau was passed to the 2nd degree.

**June 22.** Third degree conferred on Bro. Vasudeva Rau. The writer having rejoined the station after two years' absence was proposed as a rejoining member.

**July 27.**

As a member of the Grand Lodge (P. Sub. Grand Master) the writer considered it his duty to at once take up the matter of arrears. These had continued to increase and the cash balance to decrease in the same proportion until the arrears stood at Rs. 3,852 and the cash balance at Rs. 1,052. Several of the members owed from Rs. 200 to 450 each and had paid nothing for years. A notice was circulated by the Rt. Wor. Master calling upon all members to at once make arrangements for payment. An opportunity was afforded for compounding for dues, but it was announced that unless some arrangement was made the defaulters would be proceeded against under the bye-laws without respect of persons. This time the Lodge was thoroughly in earnest. It was resolved that every case should be taken up on its merits and that all possible consideration should be shown to individual cases, for where members have been allowed to fall so greatly in arrears it may often be impossible for them to pay up at once. The notice had a good effect and was generally responded to. During the next five months, some paid up in full, others compounded, but a good many names were reported for exclusion. The actual results will be given later on, of course severe measures of this kind are not agreeable to all, but if a Lodge is to be really efficient and a credit to the Craft they must be enforced. This is another example of the necessity of a certain proportion of the European element being absolutely necessary to keep a

Lodge up to a high standard of discipline. During the last ten years Lodge Morland has done some very good work. It has shown great vitality in emerging from a period of extreme depression ; but the rules have not been strictly enforced and the consequence is that the bad example of a few has been followed by others. Once more I would draw attention to the excellent example set by Lodges where there is a large Military element of the members paying up their dues at each Lodge Meeting. This practice relieves the officers from a very painful duty and renders each member's Masonic career an easier one. Better than joining several Lodges and falling into arrears with all, would it be to stick to one only and always be punctual in payment. A Lodge can never take the part it should in subscribing towards charities if it is burdened with a large arrears list, and has to provide for current expenses and for dues to Grand Lodge on account of members who allow themselves to fall into arrears for a long period.

It was resolved to at once take steps to settle the dispute between the Lodge and the Receiver, Mr. Shapurji, and also to arrange the outstanding financial arrangement with the other Masonic Institutions connected with Lodge Morland.

Out of 22 members to whom the circular had been sent, only one  
 Sept. 28. had made an arrangement to pay off his dues by instalments and accordingly notices to show cause were sent to the other 21.

At this Meeting a number of European brethren were proposed and  
 Oct. 26. it was resolved to put the payment of a joining fee into abeyance for four months. This was agreed to subject to an amendment as regards a reduction and not an amendment and immediately afterwards the following brethren whose names had been circulated in the summons were ballotted for and elected :

Bro. Lieut. O. H. M. Hovell of the Manchester Regiment.

„ „ Hubert Knox „ „

„ T. M. English, Mint Master.

Wor. Bro. Col. C. C. Little, P.D.G.M. (Burmah).

Rt. Wor. Bro. Col. J. R. Yourdi, P. M. and P.M.O., Secunderabad.

„ „ „ „ MacDonald, Commanding 96th Berar Infantry.

Several of the defaulting brethren paid up their dues, others made arrangements and two names were sent up for exclusion. It was resolved to present an address to H. H. the Nizam on the occasion of his Jubilee in the month of December following and to ask the other Lodges in the station to co-operate.

Bro. J. P. Davies elected as a joining member. Wor. Bro. Col.

Nov. 23. C. C. Little was elected as Master for the ensuing year. This worthy Brother had for many years been a

well-known and prominent character in social and Masonic circles in Hyderabad and Berar. He had acted as Residency Surgeon, Hyderabad, and eventually was appointed to Burmah as Principal Medical Officer. There he was elected District Grand Master; and after his retirement he came back to Hyderabad to practice privately. The writer had been asked by the Lodge to stand as Worshipful Master, but recognizing that the interests of the Lodge would be far better served by so distinguished a Brother, he requested the brethren to elect him instead. The result has proved to be most satisfactory, and we all sincerely trust that under Wor. Bro. Little's rule the Lodge will again take up the high position which it formerly held.

A very largely-attended Meeting of over 50 members and visitors.

Dec. 23. The Installation ceremony was commenced by the writer and concluded by Rt. Wor. Bro. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad.

Five old members, principally officers of H. H's Troops were elected as rejoining members.

A report was made regarding the address presented to H. H. the Nizam on the 18th December. Three new joining members were proposed: Bros. J. Pile, C. W. Lloyd Jones and F. M. B. Rosenthal. Bro. Col. MacDonald withdraws his name owing to his approaching absence. Bro. Vasudeva Rau was appointed Secretary and the late S. W., Bro. Hormusji Panthaki, who had stood aside in order *to ensure the election* of Bro. Col. Little, was re-appointed.

At this stage we may leave Lodge Morland. It seems to be in a fair way of success. It has a cash balance of over Rs. 2,000 (including sums due from other Masonic Institutions); there are a number of new members; there is an admirable spirit of cordiality and harmony; the defaulters have been eliminated or are paying up their dues, and the long pending dispute with the Receiver is on the eve of settlement. The Lodge has gone through many vicissitudes and troubles, but throughout them it has been eventually upheld by a true spirit of Freemasonry and a number of the brethren have passed through the fire of adversity and come out as refined gold.

Note.—For the last three months, the Lodge has been busy in revising its bye-laws mainly with the object of reducing the fees and subscription which have been abnormally high.

## NOTE.

We have now narrated in detail the history of the various Craft Lodges up to the end of 1905, as far as they are available, and we may aptly conclude with a function in which they all took part during the last days of that year. It happened to be the Silver Jubilee year of His Highness the Nizam's reign and it occurred to Lodge Morland, which had previously presented addresses to His Highness on the occasion of his birthday, to ask the other Lodges to combine and present a joint address. An objection was first of all made that His Highness was not a Freemason, but the reply was at once made that all Freemasons are bound to show respect and owe allegiance to the Sovereign of the country in which they reside, and from whose Government they receive protection. The question was referred to the Grand Lodges of Madras and Bombay, and the Grand Masters, Lord Amphill and Lord Lamington both concurred in the propriety of such an address. His Highness having graciously consented to receive a deputation from the joint Lodges, the function took place on the 18th December at 6 P.M., after a durbar and garden party in the Chow Mahala palace. Dispensations having been received and a special tent having been provided, the representatives of the different Lodges proceeded in full regalia to an inner room of the palace where they were received by His Highness surrounded by his Court. As this function forms a precedent, which may possibly be followed by others hereafter, the official programme, address, reply, etc., are given below :—

PRESENTATION OF ADDRESS TO H. H. THE NIZAM BY THE COMBINED  
LODGES OF FREEMASONS.

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*Programme.*

The Brethren will meet at the Chow Mahala Palace, on 18th December, 1905, at 6 P.M. Refreshments will be provided and a room for dressing.

When H. H. is ready to receive them, they will proceed in full regalia to the reception room, the Junior Lodge leading. The procession (in couples) will proceed round the room from left to right, and will pass H. H. with a bow and the sign of fidelity. The Brethren will then turn to the right, open out and march to the lower end of the room where they will take up a position in parallel columns facing each other. The Junior Lodge furthest away, and the other Lodges according to Seniority, so that the Senior Lodge will occupy the position nearest to H. H. The readers of the address will then march up the middle preceded by a Tyler with a drawn sword. On arrival opposite H. H., the Tyler will deposit

his sword on the ground, in front of the *dais*. The address will then be read in English and in Urdu. After this the Brethren will proceed round the room from left to right, in single file, the Junior Lodge coming first ; as each brother passes H. H., he should bow with the sign of fidelity and each banner to be lowered as it passes. As each brother passes, his name will be called out by the introducer. They will then take up their old position in a double column. A pause will be made during which His Highness will *probably* reply. After this, the W. M. of the Senior Lodge will step forward and pronounce a prayer according to the form supplied. At the end of the prayer all the Brethren will pronounce the words : " So mote it be ! ", slowly and solemnly.

Permission will then be asked to retire, and this having been given, they will turn to the door and march out two by two. The members first, and the officers and W. Ms., bringing up the rear of each Lodge.

After the address has been read, the readers of it will stand aside one on each side of H. H. below the *dais*. After the last Lodge has passed out, the Tyler will resume his sword, salute H. H. with it and will then march out in front of the two delegates, who having again bowed to H. H. with the sign of fidelity will follow him. On reaching the door they will again turn, salute H. H. at the door in the same manner and then retire.

Masons unattached to any Lodge (who have not been excluded for any masonic offence) will be allowed to follow the banners of the Lodges to which they have formerly belonged.

*Dress*—Uniform or evening dress, officers of the Lodge to wear white kid gloves.

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HIS HIGHNESS ASSAF JAH, MUZAFFER-UL-MUMALIK, NIZAM-UL-MULK, NIZAM-UD-DOWLAH, MIR MAHOOB ALI KHAN BAHADUR FATEH JUNG, G.C.S.I., G.C.B., HYDERABAD (DECCAN).

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS,

We, who have the honour to appear before Your Highness, are Freemasons, the descendants of a Society which dates back to the remotest times. King Solomon, the wise, was our original Grand Master, and since his time, numerous Kings and Princes have been our Brethren, our Rulers and our Patrons. Our last Grand Master of English Freemasonry and Patron of Scottish Freemasonry was our present Gracious Sovereign, Edward VII, King of Great Britain and Ireland, and Emperor of India. The present Grand Master in England is His Royal

Highness the Duke of Connaught, and here in India the different Masonic Provinces are governed for the most part by representatives of our King-Emperor.

In Hyderabad the Lodges which we represent are under the rule of His Excellency Lord Ampthill, the Governor of Madras, and His Excellency Lord Lamington, the Governor of Bombay ; but the Ruler or Worshipful Master of each Craft Lodge is Ruler of a separate but allied body forming part of a Great Empire that extends over the whole world.

We have nothing to do with worldly power, with wars, conquests or politics. Our main duty is the promotion of brotherly love and charity and we strive to form a bond of union amongst the whole of humanity regardless of Race, Religion or Nationality. Our surplus funds are devoted to these objects, and during the last 100 years many crores of Rupees have been spent in England and in India, in the relief, the support and the education of the poor and distressed.

One of the principal duties imposed upon us by the rules of our order is obedience and respect to the Sovereign of the Country in which, for the time being, we may reside, and it is our proud boast that in this duty we have never been found wanting.

It is in the pursuance of this duty that we now appear before Your Highness in order to offer our respectful congratulations on the occasion of this Jubilee of Your Highness' birth. We beg to offer our thanks for the protection we have received in the discharge of our Masonic duties and to tender the assurance of our unfailing respect and submission to Your Highness' person and authority.

We will not further trespass upon Your Highness' time, but will conclude with invoking the blessing of the Great Architect of the Universe on Your Highness' person and house, adding the prayer that you may be long spared to celebrate future anniversaries of your birth ; that you will continue to rule over your subjects with wisdom, ability and kindness, and will always extend your gracious protection and favour to our Brotherhood.

So mote it be !

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SPEECH OF HIS HIGHNESS IN REPLY TO ADDRESS OF THE COMMUNITY  
OF FREEMASONS.

MY WELL-WISHERS AND FRIENDS FREEMASONS,

I hereby return thanks for your kind address which I fully appreciate. I am very pleased to hear from you that it is your duty to pay homage

and fealty to the Sovereign of the country in which you reside and that there is a large number of your Fraternity in my dominions. Your Grand Master, His Excellency Lord Ampthill, is a great friend of mine and he has written me a very kind letter of congratulations on this occasion. Your Grand Master has also sent me a very kind telegram which with a copy of my reply I hand you for your perusal.

FREEMASONS OF HYDERABAD,

The old and wise Rules of your Order to which you have referred I am much in sympathy with, because it is calculated to improve good feelings and harmony among the different creeds and classes in my Dominions and I give you the assurance that I will not fail to give your Institutions all the encouragement that may be found necessary.

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*Copy of telegram, dated the 18th December, 1905, from His Excellency Lord Ampthill, Governor of Madras, to His Highness the Nizam, Hyderabad (Deccan).*

Allow me to associate myself very cordially with the address which is being presented to Your Highness by the Freemasons this day. As District Grand Master I am grateful to Your Highness for the protection and facilities which are afforded to Freemasons in the State of Hyderabad.

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*Copy of telegram, dated the 18th December, 1905, from His Highness the Nizam, Hyderabad (Deccan), to His Excellency Lord Ampthill, Governor of Madras.*

With great pleasure I acknowledge Your Excellency's telegram as District Grand Master of Freemasons and thank you very sincerely for so kindly associating yourself with the address of Freemasons of my Dominions.

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FORM OF PRAYER TO BE PRONOUNCED BY THE W. M. OF THE  
SENIOR LODGE.

"As the W.M. of the Senior Lodge of Freemasons working in the Dominions of H. H. the Nizam of Hyderabad I, on behalf of the United Brethren of the English and Scotch Constitutions offer our humble supplications to Almighty God that He will be pleased to pour down His blessing upon the Nizam of Hyderabad and the country under his rule; that He will give him long life and prosperity and will endow him with the wisdom of our Grand Master King Solomon.

So mote it be!

The Casket in which the Address was presented consisted of a hollow silver column to represent Boaz. The addresses, which were engrossed on silk in English and Urdu, were read by the writer of these annals, and by Rt. Wor. Bro. Raghoonath Persad, as the two oldest representative Masons of the English and Scotch Constitutions. The function was certainly a success and seemed to give His Highness pleasure.

At this stage we may leave our Craft Lodges. They have passed through various vicissitudes, but they have always emerged, though sometimes with difficulty, from their troubles. The vital spark of Freemasonry has always remained alive and even though near extermination has been able to excite fresh flames. As we leave them the Lodges generally may be said to be in a greater state of prosperity than they have been before, and Freemasonry in Hyderabad and Secunderabad stands on a solid footing. Whatever troubles there may have been, have been due mainly to the faults of individuals. Even Freemasons are not always able to steer their barque over the seas of passion without relinquishing the helm of rectitude and justice, and are not always able to moderate the passions, the excess of which distort and deform the very soul. But Freemasonry gives them a general meeting point and if I may term it, a *locus pœnitentiæ*, which few other earthly institutions afford. One of our mottos should be

*Floreat et florebit.*

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## LODGE KEYSTONE, No. 81 OF MARK MASTER MASONS.

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The Minute Book opens with the following entry : Lodge Keystone, No. 81, on the Registry of the Grand Lodge of Mark Masters of England and Wales and the Colonies and Dependencies of the British Crown, was opened on the above date under the authority of a Warrant signed by the M. C. the G. M. Viscount Holmesdale and addressed to Bro. Aubery W. A. Saunders as the first Worshipful Master and Bro. John Wood and Rt. Wor. Bro. A. J. Greenlaw\* as the first Wardens of the Lodge, when the following Mark Masters were present :

Bro. Aubery Saunders, Worshipful Master.

„ Jacob Wilkins, S. W. of Victoria in Burmah, *as* S. W.

„ Richard Wm. Berkely, *as* J. W.

The newly appointed Worshipful Master was Major Aubery Saunders, who at this period has taken so prominent a part in all the Masonic Institutions working in the station and who was afterwards appointed as District Grand Master of Madras. His portrait has been reproduced in the present volume. At this opening Meeting seven brethren were admitted to the degree of M. M. M, *viz.*, Bro. Col. Smithers, Bros. Walker, Lawrie, Perkins, Dobbs, Robertson and Murphy. These were all officers with the exception of the latter, a Serjeant who was elected Tyler. From a statement made by the Worshipful Master, it appears that the original intention had been that Lodge Keystone was to be established in Bellary ; but Wor. Bro. Saunders having been transferred to Secunderabad he requested permission to take the Warrant with him. This authority was given and accordingly what was Bellary's loss became Secunderabad's gain. In recognition of Rt. Wor. Bro. Greenlaw's distinguished services and of the fact "that he had been J. W. of the Lodge" he was elected an Honorary Member. It was arranged that

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\* Rt. Wor. Bro. Greenlaw appears to have only lent his name for the purpose of founding the Lodge. He was then District Grand Master in Burmah and occupied a very distinguished position in the Craft. His Masonic Lectures are well known to all students of Masonry.

the officers should, to begin with, purchase their aprons which, however, would be re-purchased by the Lodge when funds would admit. Three new candidates were proposed. An Emergent Meeting of instruction was held a week later at which Bro. Bradford was admitted. "But being without a certificate (of Mark Master) the Worshipful Master administered the oath of obligation to him." Four days later another Emergent Lodge of Instruction was held so that it is clear that Wor. Bro. Saunders was resolved to teach his officers their respective duties before he held a Regular Meeting which took place on 25th July, two weeks after the opening.

Bros. G. Simon, F. F. R. Bishop and C. J. O. Fitzgerald were  
 July 25. elected and the former being present was advanced.

The Bye-laws were then read and approved and are copied into the Minutes. There is nothing in the Bye-laws of particular importance. The fee for joining is fixed at Rs. 10 and for advancement at Rs. 25. The Lodge continued to receive many recruits during the year, amongst them Bros. Twentyman and two Mahomedan brethren, Ali Mahomed Khan and Moosa Khan, who were active members of the Craft Lodge (St. John).

Bro. Wilkins was elected Worshipful Master. At this Meeting a  
 Oct. 1866. dispensation is read from the Provincial Grand Master to "remove Lodge 'Neptune,' No. 81, from Bellary to Secunderabad," so that apparently the original name intended for the Lodge was Neptune, but on being brought to Secunderabad by Bro. Saunders it was changed to Keystone, carrying the same number on the register. In spite of the many advancements, there have been a number of resignations owing to transfers on duty and the attendance is seldom more than 10. Bro. Beaver was advanced at this Meeting, but no other Meeting was held—owing to "no business"—until May next year.

May 4, 1867. Bros. Hooper, Hills and Chubly were elected and advanced; the next Meeting was in September.

Sept. 7. Bro. Canon was advanced and Bro. O. F. Smithers was elected as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year.

Installation of Bro. Smithers as Worshipful Master. There was not  
 Oct. 5. much business done during the rest of the year, and the next Meeting recorded is on 1st February, 1868.

Bros. Ince and Kellie were elected and advanced. In May, Bros. Thomson, Ford and Schaffter were advanced, and in  
 Feb. 1, 1868. June Bro. (afterwards Col.) McGoun and a well known resident of Madras was advanced and at this Meeting it was resolved to reduce the fee for advancement to Rs. 15. A subscription of Rs. 50 was

voted to the widow of the late Grand Secretary, Bro. Scott. During this year we find most of the prominent members of St. John joining the Mark Lodge—Bros. Grimley, State, Ramsey, Gadsden and Anderson, and the attendance is improving.

Wor. Bro. Aubery Saunders, the P. M., was again elected Worshipful Master. The death was announced of Bro. Ali

Sept. 5. Mahomed Khan "the Father of the Lodge" as he is termed. During the next two Meetings, Bro. Law was advanced and Bro. Malcolm admitted as a joining member.

Two of the officers resign on transfer to another station, but Bros. Stone, Ogilvie, Rose, Greenhill and Boswell are elected and advanced.

Jan. 1869.

There is no record of any Meeting between January and June, but on the latter date we find a resolution to the effect that June. Bro. G. A. Boswell (one of the brethren advanced in January) having written an objectionable remark in the collecting book and having been requested in writing on two different occasions to erase the same and having paid no attention to the above request, the Worshipful Master directed that Bro. Boswell be again written to and a reply requested. This matter came before the next two Meetings, but owing to the absence of the Worshipful Master was allowed to stand over. In September it was resolved to give him a "last opportunity" and to ask him to attend at the next Lodge.

Bro. (Col.) Gadsden installed as Worshipful Master. Nothing more appears about the Boswell incident. The Meetings Oct. appear to be very irregularly held, the next being in March 1870.

March 3, 1870. Bros. Stapleton, Penny and Joseph Clarke were advanced.

Bros. Smith (E. D. U.), Thomas Cole and Ch. Clare were elected, the two former being advanced. Two brethren (Davidson and Smithers) allowed to rejoin on payment of arrears accrued during their absence.

June 4.

Bros. Barclay and Englefield elected and advanced together with Bro. Clare elected at the previous Meeting. The Lodge July 2. appears now only to meet when there is a ceremony to be performed.

Bro. Ramsay elected Worshipful Master and Bro. McGoun, Treasurer. Lodge Keystone in response to a request from Lodge Sept. 3. St. John agrees to contribute 1/9 share of cost of building

improvements amounting to Rs. 110. As regards servants' wages the Craft Lodge decides to pay  $\frac{2}{3}$  the remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  to be divided between Keystone, R. A. Chapter and the R. D. Encampment. At the previous Meeting a Resolution had been carried to erase the name of a certain Bro. H. for arrears and was carried. The Brother having in the meantime paid up his dues, the Resolution was not confirmed and it was resolved to give him a clearance certificate.

Eighteen present. Before the Installation ceremony was proceeded with, the death of the Provincial Grand Master, Bro. Greenlaw, was announced and received with profound regret, the Lodge being placed in mourning for six months. A report on the financial condition is read, but unfortunately not recorded.

During the rest of the year the Lodge continues to be well attended. There are several new candidates and the Lodge appears to be prospering. It was resolved to join in the petition for the election of the District Grand Master of Madras (Craft) as Provincial Grand Master of the Mark. Wor. Bro. Saunders retires on leaving the Station and is elected an Honorary Member, an honour he has well deserved for the zeal he has displayed and the good work he has done during the past five years. Bros. Schaffter, Johnson, Rawlins and Dumphy were advanced to the degree of M. M. M.

Fifteen members present. Bro. Wilkins was elected Worshipful Master and Bro. Gadsden as Treasurer. The death of Bro. Kellie, one of the oldest members, was announced and received with great regret. During this year there are many resignations owing to transfers, and though the Meetings are fairly well attended (averaging 10) the number of members decreases and the funds are stated to be at a low ebb. Bros. James, Stone, Aylmer and Smith received advancement and Bro. Shepherd joined the Lodge.

A claim was received from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Burmah for dues and returns from June 1868 to 30th September, 1871, which, however, was contested on the ground that the Burmese Provincial Grand Lodge had not met from March '68 to September '71 and that in September '70 the dues and returns had been sent to the Provincial Grand Lodge in Madras. As already stated Bro. Greenlaw appears in the warrant as one of the founders of Keystone and is described as the Provincial Grand Master (Burmah?) and as one of the Wardens of Keystone. Bro. Greenlaw was certainly Provincial Grand Master because his death in that capacity has just been recorded in 1870. But how did Keystone in Secunderabad come under the jurisdiction of Burmah? and if it was under Burmah at first, how did it come under

Madras afterwards? The Minutes give no clue to the Mystery.\* Owing to the low state of the funds the fee for advancement is increased to Rs. 20 from Rs. 15. The Lodge is rather sparsely attended and there are seldom more than 10 present. Towards the end of the year Bro. (Col.) Gadsden (a prominent member in the Craft and a P. M. of Keystone) presides and was in September elected as Worshipful Master for the coming year, there being only one other member (Bro. Wilkins) eligible.

Installation Meeting. Only eight brethren present. The Grand  
**Oct. 5.** Lodge dues appear to have been in arrears, for two years, but were forwarded by the new Worshipful Master on his accession to office. Bro. Rawlins, the S. W., resigns as he is leaving for England with his Battery. The resignation is accepted with great regret and the Worshipful Master praises the Worthy Brother for his zeal.

The next meeting is after an interval of four months when only five  
**Feb. 3, 1873.** brethren were present. The controversy about the fees claimed by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Burmah is again discussed. The Burmah Provincial Grand Lodge decides to leave the question in the hands of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Madras.

Bros. Butler, Morris, Rhenius and Hudson proposed as candidates.  
**May 3.** They were elected at the next Meeting in July together with Bro. O'Donnell as a joining member. The three candidates were advanced, and an instalment of Rs. 100 was ordered to be paid towards the St. John's fund of Benevolence. It was also resolved to reduce the monthly subscriptions from Rs. 2 to Re. 1.

The next Meeting was held on the 6th September and this, the first book of the Lodge, contains the records of proceedings up to September 5th, 1874. But *across* the page containing the record of the 6th Sep-

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\* Whilst this book was passing through the Press, I received the following letter from Wor. Bro. Higgs, the Provincial Grand Secretary of the Mark. "Mark Masonry was introduced into British Burmah in 1864 by Col. Greenlaw who founded "Lodge Victoria in Burmah." At that time the only Mark Lodge in S. India was "St. Marks in the East" at Madras. In September 1865 a Provincial Grand Lodge was constituted for Madras and British Burmah, the first Provincial Grand Lodge outside of England and Wales, under Bro. Greenlaw. Apparently Bro. Greenlaw's jurisdiction extended to the whole of India and Burmah, for during his tenure of office the Roll of Lodges included those at Rangoon, Akyab, Moulmein, Madras, Calcutta, Secunderabad (Keystone), Bangalore, Thayetmyo, Meerut, Umballa, Cannanore and Port Blair. In 1867 a Province of Bengal was founded and the Calcutta, Umballa and Meerut Lodges were transferred. In 1871 Madras was separated from Burmah, and had a Provincial Grand Lodge of its own, Bro. Macdonald Ritchie being the first Provincial Grand Master. This will explain how it was that Secunderabad was under Burmese jurisdiction."

tember, I find the following endorsement: "The Minutes from this date being found to be written incorrectly and in an unintelligible manner they, have been corrected and transferred to a new book and have this day been examined by the undersigned and found correct.

(Signed) J. SHEPPARD, *M.M.*

( " ) J. GADSDEN, *I.P.M.*

" Dated 3rd October, 1874."

(*Note.*—The book itself is not even half finished and the note above quoted is rather difficult to understand. The ensuing five Minutes are all duly confirmed, and a perusal of them does not show any apparent error. It is also difficult to understand, how, after a period of twelve months, anyone should have been in a position to correct them. But as they are clearly cancelled by the note quoted, there is no necessity to discuss them, and we therefore proceed to the next book, which opens with a Meeting on the 2nd January, 1897. There is therefore a book or books missing containing the records of the 23 years between 1874 and 1897. This is another instance of the necessity of every Worshipful Master on his assumption of office seeing that all the old records are forthcoming. At present when two or three Lodges meet in one building it often happens that the old books of all the Lodges are huddled together in different boxes, not always securely protected. The consequence is that white ants and rats play havoc with them apart from the likelihood of their being mislaid or *lost*.)

During the 23 years that have passed considerable changes have occurred in the Lodge. There are now several Craft Lodges from which it is recruited and we find among the members the names which have become familiar during the nineties—Bros. Gould, Pilcher, A. H. Stevens, G. F. Turner, Nepean, Marshall, Moinuddin and Gribble. During the first few months of the year there are a number of new joining members. On the 3rd July new By-laws were passed which are embodied in the Minutes. They do not contain anything calling for special remark except that the Meetings are to be held on the second Saturday in alternate months, the election of Worshipful Master in September and his Installation in November. Bro. Gould is Worshipful Master during the year and in September Bro. A. H. Stevens was elected to succeed him, and as Bro. Gould was leaving the Station a P. M. jewel was voted to him. In November the new Worshipful Master was installed and he appointed Bros. Capt. Marshall, V.C. and the writer as his S. and J. Wardens. The ceremony was performed by Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher, who plays in the Mark, the same active and prominent part that he does in the Craft. Four new candidates proposed for advancement; Bros. Armstrong, Bayliss, Sorrell and Campbell (A. J.).

A vote of condolence was passed with the District Grand Lodge of Bengal on the death of District Grand Master, R. W. **Jan. 8, 1898.** Bro. General Yeatman Biggs, C.B. Two of the four candidates (Bayliss and Sorrell) were advanced. The Worshipful Master being frequently absent on plague duty his place is filled by Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher. Several joining brethren are announced. In July the death of the District Grand Master of Madras, Wor. Bro. Newit\*, was announced. By some mistake the usual Election Meeting was not held in September but in November when, under special dispensation, the election was held and installation at a Special Meeting on the 26th. Wor. Bro. Gribble was elected and installed. Two deaths were announced of Bros. Col. Sorrell and Lieut. Armstrong who had only been recently advanced. At the Installation Meeting on the 26th, Bro. Capt. Vesey Davoren was proposed as joining member and Bros. Fred. and G. G. Wright for advancement. Bro. Gribble appointed Bros. Davoren and Moinuddin as his Wardens and DeSouza as his Tyler. (The appointment of the first two appears to have been somewhat irregular as it was made in anticipation of the ballot which could only take place at the next Regular Meeting two months hence.) In order that they might have an unbroken year of office he also invested them.

Lodge placed in mourning on account of the death of the Earl of Latham, Grand Master. Very little work appears to **Jan. 14, 1899.** have been done during this year, although the Lodge met regularly. In July it was proposed that the day of meeting be altered from a Saturday to a Tuesday. In September, Bro. Davoren was elected Worshipful Master and two new members were proposed. The writer was elected Treasurer. The death of Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher was announced amidst profound regret. There are now 22 members in the Lodge. Bro. Davoren was installed on the 14th November and appointed Bros. Moinuddin and Major Morse as his S. and J. Wardens.

As usual, with Bro. Davoren in the chair, a number of joining members and candidates for advancement are announced, *viz.*, **Jan. 19, 1900.** Bro. Worledge—and as candidates Bros. Pye, Hartle and Coulter. The latter were advanced and four others (Bros. Day, S. Laver, Seaborn and Tucker) were proposed. Two of these (Day and Coulter)

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\* This worthy Brother had visited Hyderabad during the Christmas week of 1893, and had especially endeared himself to the brethren of the station. He assisted in the consecration of the new Morland building, attended the various installations which took place during the week and opened as Founder the "Chadarghaut" Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor. He was also the Agent in Madras for the Lodge Quatuor Coronati, and a most zealous Mason.

were advanced in March when three more candidates (Williams, Shipway and Fairbairn) were proposed. In May Bros. Norris and Patch were proposed, and elected and advanced in July and September respectively; altogether a very busy year, one, two or sometimes three advancements being made at each meeting. In the latter month, Bro. Moinuddien was elected Worshipful Master and installed on November 27th by special dispensation, owing to the Regular Meeting on the 13th having fallen through. Three new candidates proposed: Bros. M. Siddick, Outlaw and Hamilton. A P. M.'s jewel was voted to Bro. G. F. Turner for his long services to the Lodge. We are told that on being afterwards informed of the vote "'Bro. Turner earnestly protested against being granted any reward for work which was to him a pleasure' but his protest was not attended to."

Bro. Weber rejoins and Bros. Frankel, J. E. Lee, Hackford and French were elected and Bro. Frankel being present was advanced.

Jan. 8, 1901.

## ST. JOHN'S CHAPTER, No. 434, ATTACHED TO LODGE ST. JOHN.

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The warrant for this Chapter is dated 7th November, 1838, and is issued in the names of Thomas Key, Z.; John Cameron, H.; Jas. Oliphant, J.; D. S. Young and six others, but evidently the warrant now in existence must be a duplicate of the original one for in the body of the warrant, the 22nd December, 1853, is spoken of as the day on which the first Chapter is to be opened. At that time, however, the brethren whose names are mentioned and to whom the warrant is addressed were no longer in Secunderabad, whereas all four names just given appear on the rolls of Lodge St. John as Worshipful Masters between the years 1831 and 1841. The warrant is issued in the names of H. R. H. the Duke of Sussex as Z., J. Spencer Churchill D.G.M., as H. and J. Ramsbotham as J., but is actually signed by William N. White, E.; and A. Dobie, N.

The first record of the proceedings is dated 22nd December, 1852, but there seems to be no doubt that a Chapter in connection with the Lodge St. John was being worked soon after the formation of the Lodge, though under what authority it is impossible to say.

We read that on the above date the Chapter was opened by M. Ex. Z. Edmund George Papell, P.Z. of the R. A Chapter Keystone, No. 326 of Madras. Comps. Pollard, Farewell, Taylor, Freeman, Haseadon and Wood were present and the three first were elected as Z., H. and J. respectively and then installed. After this ceremony five Master Masons were proposed to be balloted for, and exalted at the next Regular Meeting, *viz.*, Bros. J. G. Palmer, W. Shelley, C. H. Ricketts, G. Oppner and W. Colquhoun. This was done at a Meeting held on the 24th January, 1853. Five months elapsed before another Meeting of the Chapter was held when five more M.M.'s were elected and exalted, *viz.*, Bros. Maillardett, Remington, Ritherdon, Doria and Ward. In July 1853 a Meeting was held to elect three new Principals as those in office were about to leave. Comps. Shelley, Geddes and Maillardett were elected and Bros.

Webb, Lee and Phillips were elected and exalted. A Jewel was voted to M. Ex. Comp. Papell (probably for his services in re-opening the Chapter). Another Meeting was held on the 25th of the same month at which the three new Principals were installed and then for some reason or other not recorded, the Chapter seems to have fallen into abeyance, for the next Minutes (after two blank pages) are dated 24th December, 1862, a period of nine years having elapsed. The Chapter was, we learn, opened by M. Ex. Comps. Nott, Kellie and Jennings as Z., H. and J. respectively. Four other Companions were then admitted, *viz.*, Mannet, Laville, Nolan and Ali Mahomed Khan and four M.M.'s (Martin, Blumberg, Haddon and Anderson) were elected and exalted. During this year Quarterly Meetings were held and seven fresh members were elected and exalted. In January 1864 the Chapter seems to be in a fairly prosperous condition. Comps. Kellie, Martin and Blumberg occupy the three chairs. Bro. Banman was elected and exalted and Rs. 50 and 30 were voted to the Protestant and Roman Catholic orphanages respectively. The Minutes are very brief but at each of the Quarterly Meetings during the year fresh members are found joining, amongst others Bro. Col. Smithers whose name is prominent in the Craft Lodge. On the 26th November Rs. 200 were voted to the Protestant and Rs. 99-10-0 to the Roman Catholic Orphanages. This money appears to have formed the whole of the Chapter funds and at the end of the proceedings of this date we find the ominous words: "There being an insufficient number of installed Principals, and no First Principal, the Chapter was duly sealed up by Ex. Comps. Kellie, Martin and Jennings, and was delivered into the care of M. Ex. Comp. Stevenson (J.) with an earnest hope that it may be speedily re-opened by a qualified Companion."

In February and May of the following year the Chapter met but merely opened and closed without transacting any business, Ex. Companion Stevenson apparently being the only Principal present. Again there occurs a gap and the Chapter did not meet until 29th day of June, 1866, when five Companions only were present and no Principal. In July of the same year however a new era opens for the Chapter. Bro. Aubrey Saunders appears to have arrived in the Station and presides as P. Z. with Comps. Smithers and Balfour as H. and J. respectively. M. Ex. Comp. Saunders, who has come from Benares, is elected as a joining member as also was Comp. Babilly of the Leinster Chapter and no less than nine M.Ms. are elected and exalted. Comps. Aubrey Saunders, Smithers and Wilkins were elected as Z., H. and J. respectively, and the Chapter seems to be on a fair way to prosper. Evidently the masonic zeal of Bro. Aubrey Saunders has worked this change in its prospects.

Bro. Pillard elected and exalted. New Bye-laws have been framed and were read. One of these was to the effect that  
**Sept. 8, 1866.** Monthly Meetings should be held, and the fees are fixed  
 as follows :—

|                                                         |     |     |     |        |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Exaltation                                              | ... | ... | ... | Rs. 50 |
| Joining                                                 | ... | ... | ... | „ 15   |
| Quarterly                                               | ... | ... | ... | „ 3    |
| Janitor's fee                                           | ... | ... | ... | „ 2    |
| Exaltation of a Brother not belonging to Lodge St. John | ... | ... | ... | „ 75   |

Another law makes the connection of the Chapter a very close one, no one is to be proposed as a member of the Chapter unless he is also a member of St. John; any Mason joining St. John who is also a R.A. becomes *ipso facto* a member of the Chapter without ballot, and any Companion who retires from the Lodge ceases to be a member of the Chapter. For the rest of the year the attendance at the Monthly Meetings continues to be very good and several new members are elected. Between the 10th November, 1866 and 18th May, 1867 no Meetings of the Chapter appear to have been held but no reason for this gap is given. On the latter date M. Ex. Comp. Aubrey Saunders is still Z. with Smithers and Wilkins as H. and J. Bros. Twentyman and Gardner were elected and exalted. The Meetings continue to be very irregularly held. Only one more Meeting was held during 1867 and then a gap occurs until April 1868 at which Bro. Col. Ramsey was elected and exalted. The Chapter continued to meet regularly until August 1869, M. Ex. Comp. Aubrey Saunders presiding during the whole of the time. Then, however, occurs another gap of five months when the Chapter met with Comp. Smithers, a P.P.Z. in the chair. At this Meeting Comp. (Col). Gadsden was elected Z., Smithers, H. and Ramsey, J.—altogether ten members were present. For the next four months it met regularly every month and there were admissions of fresh members at each Meeting. No other Meeting was held until August when new Bye-laws were confirmed and it was resolved to hold Monthly Meetings in future. During this year there were several new admissions and rejoinings but in December Comp. Aubrey Saunders being about to leave the Station, resigns and is elected an Honorary Member.

Annual election. Comps. Ramsey elected as Z. and Twentyman as J. and were installed at the Meeting of the following  
**Jan. 14, 1871.** month. No H. appears to have been elected.

Regular Meetings were held during the year and several admissions made though in November we find Comp. Gadsden, who is acting as Treasurer in addition to Scribe E., expressing the hope “that a qualified Principal would soon join the Chapter in order that the working might

be resumed and that R. A. Masonry in Secunderabad might not fall into abeyance permanently." The Principal Z. (Col. Ramsey) is about to leave the Station as also Principal H. (Twentyman) who is leaving with his Regiment (18th Hussars).

Comp. Wilkins elected Z. but no elections were made to the two other chairs apparently because there was no one eligible. There are however two P. Zs. in the Chapter but apparently it was thought advisable to keep the chairs vacant for fresh members. No other Meeting was held until April when Comps. Agnew and Sheppard, P. H. and J. respectively of Chapter Bangalore having been elected members were also elected and installed in the chairs of H. and J. in this Chapter. No Meeting was held in May and June "owing to the excessive heat of the weather." In July Bros. C. J. Smith and Edwards were elected and exalted. It appears to be the practice in this Chapter for the Principal Sojourner to appoint the Asst. Sojourners and accordingly Comp. Colin Johnston, who is now P.S., announced his intention of appointing Comp. C. J. Smith to the post of S.S. Another custom appears to be after opening to read the Summons and then to hold a ballot for joining members; after which, only the Minutes of the last Meeting are read; owing to the absence of the P.Z. on sick leave, the work of presiding falls upon Ex. Comp. Gadsden.

The Chapter is visited by M. E. Comp. Tyrrel Leith from Bombay who is asked to officiate as H. Comps. Martinant, O'Donnell and Hudson were elected as joining members, and Bro. E. H. Stone was exalted. On a vote of thanks being passed to Comp. Tyrrell Leith for his visit, the latter expressed his great pleasure at the manner in which the work had been done and said "that he had never witnessed the R. A. degree given better." No other Meeting was held during the year.

Comps. Agnew and Sheppard elected as Z. and H. The third chair was not filled but was taken temporarily by Comp. Gadsden to whom a vote of thanks was passed for ruling the Chapter for the past ten months.

The 1st Principal (Agnew) having died, Comp. Sheppard was elected as Z. Two joining members and two M. Ms. (Cameron of Deccan and Syed Mohiuddin of St. John) proposed for exaltation. Ex. Comp. Sheppard was installed as Z. and H. Hynes as J. at a Meeting in June.

Bro. Cameron exalted, and four M. Ms. (P. Mergler, G. Palmer, Byrne and E. Butler) proposed for exaltation; Comp. Clement J. Smith announces his approaching departure

and a vote of thanks is recorded and ordered to be engraved on vellum and presented to him. Regular Meetings continued to be held during the year, and although the attendance is not large a good deal was got through. There seems to be a frequent absence of the Principals but Comp. Gadsden is always ready to fill any vacant chair, and for three years appears to have been the mainstay of the Chapter.

Comps. S. Gadsden, Hynes and Stone elected Z. H. and J. Two exaltations (Bros. Fitzgerald and Syed Mohiuddin) but Comp. Jan. 10, 1879. Gadsden asked to be allowed to resign in favour of Comp. Sheppard, so that the latter might gain the full privileges of a year's office. This was accepted and Comp. Sheppard therefore continued in office. Three M. Ms. from Lodge St. John (Dodd, Derry and Graham) were proposed but when the ballot came on at the next Meeting a charge of unmasonic conduct having been made against Bro. Derry his ballot was postponed. Bros. Dodd and Graham were elected and exalted.

Rs. 200 voted to Lodge St. John for improvements to the building (a similar grant of Rs. 100 had been made two years previously). June 13.

The Bye-law making the exaltation fee for Masons not belonging to the St. John Lodge to be Rs. 25 in excess of the fee charged to members of St. John (Rs. 50) appears to have caused some dissatisfaction. At the Meeting of September 12 it was proposed to alter the Bye-law so as to charge the increased fee to a "Brother not belonging to any of the Lodges of the Station. Comp. Colin Johnstone "rose and interrupting M. Ex. Comp. Gadsden begged to state that whilst cordially appreciating the motives which led the M. Ex. Companion to put forward the proposition, he regretted to say that 'it came too late,' that the feeling of dissatisfaction had already gone forth and that Lodge Deccan had petitioned for a Scotch Chapter to be attached to it. (It will be remembered that Lodges Mayo and Deccan had been founded in the previous year.) A discussion followed which reminds us of one of the many scenes which subsequently took place in Lodge Deccan. Comp. Colin Johnstone lost his temper and on being reproved for his hasty and violent language demanded to be tried as a R. A. Mason. Considerable discussion followed with the result however that Comp. Colin Johnstone refused to withdraw his language or to apologize for it.

"The Minutes of the last Convocation were read and confirmed with the exception of that portion relating to the discussion of Bye-law No. 7 which it was proposed by Nov. 14. M. Ex. Comp. W. B. Johnstone and seconded by Comp. Hudson should

remain unconfirmed until the next Regular Meeting. This proposition was put to the vote and carried by a majority."

(*Note.*—There have been several similar instances of non-confirmation of Minutes in the Craft Lodges, but it seems to the writer that the Minutes are a record of what has taken place and, if properly recorded, should be confirmed as a matter of course unless the Lodge decides to alter any decision arrived at. To postpone a confirmation until the next Regular Meeting seems to be entirely irregular.)

The Lodge then proceeded to discuss the alteration of the Bye-law extending the reduced fee to all Lodges in the Station and the alteration was carried unanimously.

Bro. Saussman elected and exalted. Comp. Gadsden announces his departure and is elected an Honorary Member. Nothing further is done about confirming the Minutes of the Meeting of September, and the whole dispute appears to have been forgotten. Rs. 50 ordered to be paid to the St. John Lodge's fund.

Bro. Maurice Wilkinson elected as a candidate for exaltation, but withdraws his name as he has arranged to take his R.A. degree in Chudderghaut. Comps. Sheppard, Stone and Collins elected Z. H. and J. respectively, and installed. Comps. Carrs and Hills elected joining members and Rhenius for exaltation. No Meeting is held until May 8th. The death is announced of Bro. Rhenius, who was to have been exalted this evening. Two new joining members proposed (Atkinson and Barton) and Bro. Eastall as a candidate. Nothing of importance occurs during the rest of the year, except that Bro. (Col. afterwards General) Campbell joins and is exalted; altogether there are only four Meetings during the year, and poorly attended. Evidently the Chapter suffers from the rivalry of the Scotch Chapter in Chudderghaut.

Comps. Stone, Hynes and Carrs elected as Z., H. and J. respectively. Rs. 50 ordered to be paid to the Craft Lodge. A Jewel of the value of £10 voted to M. Ex. Comp. Sheppard. The next Meeting was on April 8th when it was resolved to elect the Past and Present Principals of Chapter Chudderghaut as Honorary Members. M. Ex. Comp. Z. (Stone) who had only been elected at the previous Meeting announced his approaching departure and was saluted. Comp. Stone was then elected an Honorary Member. The Chapter was then handed over to M. Ex. Comp. Sheppard.

May 13.

A Jewel was presented to Ex. Comp. Sheppard.

Bro. Barker elected and exalted under a dispensation. The death of M. Ex. Comp. Swinton was announced and recorded with deep regret.

Several new candidates proposed, amongst whom Bro. Ardaseer R. Pilcher who afterwards became so well known in the various institutions.

M. Ex. Comp. Sheppard announces his approaching departure, was thanked for his services and elected an Honorary Member for life. The Chapter resolves to join in a dinner to be given by the Craft Lodge to the brethren of the 16th Lancers about to leave. M. Ex. Comp. Colin Johnstone now takes charge of the Chapter as there is no P. Z.

M. Ex. Comp. Colin Johnstone elected Z., Comps. Carrs H. and Hills J. and installed. In this election Ex. Comp. Hynes had been passed over for the Z. chair. After the installation Comp. Hynes expressed his dissatisfaction and some discussion followed with the result that Comp. Hynes resigned his membership.

Feb. and April.  
May and June. Nothing of importance.

(Note.—These proceedings close the first book. The second book is missing but it appears that from 1885 to 1890 the Chapter was in abeyance as appears from the opening proceedings of a fresh book.)

The Chapter was re-opened under sanction of District Grand Chapter by M. Ex. Comp. J. Carrs, P.P.Z., Huggins and Ardaseer Pilcher as Z. H. and J. Six Companions were present: G. F. Turner; G. Neale; W. C. Ulett; N. N. Gheesta; Mirza Mehdi Khan; and A. Digny, who were admitted to membership by acclamation. Six new candidates exalted. The Chapter apparently re-opens under happy auspices, and during the next two months was very busy in exalting two candidates whose names came up for ballot. Altogether 13 new candidates were elected before the end of the year and nine were actually exalted.

Comps. Huggins, G. F. Turner and J. J. Harvey elected as Z., H. and J. respectively. Meetings continued to be held regularly every month (except June) throughout the year and a number of fresh candidates were admitted. A complete kit was ordered from England, but nothing occurred of importance beyond ordinary routine.

Comps. G. F. Turner, Mirza Mehdi Khan and Mansab Ali elected Z., H. and J. respectively. The Lodge is now fairly strong in numbers and the attendance is good, but falls off towards the end of the year. Very little of importance occurred except

that at the September Meeting an irregularity was committed in electing and exalting a Bro. Bonner, whose name, owing it is said to a lapse of memory, had not been proposed at a previous Meeting and had not been inserted in the Summons. An explanation was called for by the District Grand Chapter.

Only six members present. Comps. Mansab Ali and Viccajee were elected P. Z. and H. and the election of J. was deferred.  
 Jan. 14, 1893.

The cash balance in hand amounted to Rs. 412-8-6. No Meetings were held in February and March. The Chapter seems to have deteriorated in work, so much so as to call for a remark from M. Ex. Comp. Carrs regarding the "want of impressiveness in the conduct of ceremonial work." In July three candidates (Robinson, Tocher and Ansell) who had been proposed at the previous Meeting were elected by *acclamation*, which is irregular. At the same Meeting Rs. 100 were voted to the Madras Masonic Institution.

The Meetings during this year were irregularly held and the attendance was small.

Comp. Viccajee was elected Z. in spite of an objection having been raised that he had been excluded from a Craft Lodge for non-payment of arrears. Comps. Gheesta and Robinson elected as H. and J. respectively. Only eight members present. No Meeting was held in February and March. Altogether the Chapter seems to be in a decadent state and the writer speaking from his own experience, gained from a visit about this time, agreed with the remark made by Most Ex. Comp. Carrs regarding the conduct of work. It was proposed to hold Quarterly Meetings in future. It was also proposed to change the subscription from Re. 1 monthly to Rs. 5 quarterly to include a dinner,—but after considerable discussion both propositions were withdrawn.

Meetings continued to be held until October 1894, and then they suddenly ceased until 9th March, 1895, when we find none of the regular Principals present, the Chairs being taken by Comps. Carrs, Hukam Chund and Turner respectively. Under orders of the District Grand Chapter a new election was held, at which Comps. Hukam Chund, Carrs and Tocher were elected Z., H and J. respectively, eight members being present. No reason is given in the Minutes as to the cause of the Meetings having been discontinued. In *June* the writer together with Comps. A. H. Stevens and Templeton were elected, and Rs. 100 were voted towards the improvements carried out in the Lodge. During the year several of the Chudderghaut Chapter joined that of St. John.

Comps. Stevens, Gribble and Carrs were elected Z., H. and J. respectively and installed. A number of fresh admissions were made during the year and in June a very in-  
 Jan. 11, 1896.

structive report on the condition of the Chapter during the previous seven years, since it had been re-opened, was read on the occasion of the official visit of the District Grand H. from Madras. The following is a copy of the Report and of the District Grand H's address:—

MOST EX. SIR & COMPANION,

This Chapter which had been dormant since 1885, was under your auspices resuscitated on the 11th of October, 1890. At that time there were only two present who belonged to the old membership, and six others joined at the time from other Chapters.

The following statement gives the progress in strength since that time:—

| —                                           | Old<br>Mem-<br>bers. | Joined. | Ex-<br>alted. | Resign-<br>ed. | Died.  | Re-<br>maining. |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------------|----------------|--------|-----------------|
| At the Resuscitation<br>in October 1890 ... | 2                    | 6       | ...           | }              | ...    | 17              |
| In the last 2½ months<br>of 1890 ...        | ...                  | ...     | 9             |                |        |                 |
| In 1891 ...                                 | ...                  | ...     | 7             |                | 5      | 19              |
| „ 1892 ...                                  | ...                  | 2       | 7             | 3              | ...    | 25              |
| „ 1893 ...                                  | ...                  | ...     | 4             | 2              | 1      | 26              |
| „ 1894 ...                                  | ...                  | 1       | 2             | 13             | ...    | 16              |
| „ 1895 ...                                  | ...                  | 6       | 1             | 2              | ...    | 21              |
| „ the first 6 months<br>of 1896 ...         | ...                  | 3       | 5             | 1              | 1      | 27              |
| Total...                                    | 2                    | 18      | 35 = 55       | 26             | 2 = 28 | ...             |

leaving in good standing at the present time 27, which number includes one Serving Companion.

The financial state of our affairs in these several years may be seen from the following abstract:—

| RECEIPTS.                       | Affilia-<br>tions. | Exalta-<br>tions. | Subscrip-<br>tions. | Dispensa-<br>tion Fees. | Totals. |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|
|                                 | Rs.                | Rs.               | Rs.                 | Rs.                     | Rs.     |
| In 2½ months of 1890            | 45                 | 350               | 18                  | ...                     | 413     |
| „ 1891 ...                      | 30                 | 269               | 178                 | 12                      | 489     |
| „ 1892 ...                      | 30                 | 416               | 249                 | ...                     | 695     |
| „ 1893 ...                      | 15                 | 221               | 189                 | ...                     | 425     |
| „ 1894 ...                      | 15                 | 72                | 205                 | ...                     | 292     |
| „ 1895 ...                      | 75                 | 50                | 228                 | ...                     | 353     |
| „ first 6 months of<br>1896 ... | 30                 | 250               | 89                  | ...                     | 369     |
| Totals...                       | 240                | 1,628             | 1,156               | 12                      | 3,036   |

| EXPENDITURE.                         | Reopen-<br>ing and<br>Clothing. |       |     | Rent. |       |    | Peon's<br>Wages. |       |     | Summons,<br>Station-<br>ery and<br>Postage. |       |    | Tyler's<br>Fee, etc. |       |    | Lighting<br>and<br>Dhoby. |       |    | District<br>Grand<br>Chapter. |       |    | Supreme<br>Grand<br>Chapter. |       |     | Dona-<br>tions. |       |     | Totals. |       |    |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-------|----|------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------------------------|-------|----|----------------------|-------|----|---------------------------|-------|----|-------------------------------|-------|----|------------------------------|-------|-----|-----------------|-------|-----|---------|-------|----|
|                                      | Rs.                             | A. P. | P.  | Rs.   | A. P. | P. | Rs.              | A. P. | P.  | Rs.                                         | A. P. | P. | Rs.                  | A. P. | P. | Rs.                       | A. P. | P. | Rs.                           | A. P. | P. | Rs.                          | A. P. | P.  | Rs.             | A. P. | P.  | Rs.     | A. P. | P. |
| In 2½ months, 1890 }<br>" 1891 ... } | 478                             | 10    | 0   | 150   | 0     | 0  | ...              | ...   | ... | 29                                          | 10    | 0  | 9                    | 8     | 0  | 54                        | 8     | 0  | 79                            | 12    | 0  | 73                           | 15    | 0   | ...             | ...   | ... | 875     | 15    | 0  |
| " 1892 ...                           | 6                               | 10    | 0   | 120   | 0     | 0  | ...              | ...   | ... | 26                                          | 10    | 6  | 21                   | 0     | 0  | 45                        | 0     | 0  | 29                            | 4     | 0  | ...                          | ...   | ... | 60              | 0     | 0   | 308     | 8     | 6  |
| " 1893 ...                           | ...                             | ...   | ... | 120   | 0     | 0  | 48               | 0     | 0   | 13                                          | 0     | 0  | 14                   | 0     | 0  | 40                        | 0     | 0  | 37                            | 14    | 1  | ...                          | ...   | ... | 119             | 0     | 0   | 391     | 14    | 1  |
| " 1894 ...                           | ...                             | ...   | ... | 60    | 0     | 0  | 48               | 0     | 0   | 0                                           | 4     | 0  | 2                    | 0     | 0  | 39                        | 8     | 0  | 19                            | 10    | 7  | ...                          | ...   | ... | ...             | ...   | ... | 169     | 6     | 7  |
| " 1895 ...                           | ...                             | ...   | ... | 120   | 0     | 0  | 41               | 0     | 0   | 33                                          | 6     | 8  | 6                    | 8     | 0  | 35                        | 0     | 0  | 12                            | 5     | 8  | 182                          | 8     | 0   | 100             | 0     | 0   | 530     | 12    | 4  |
| " first 6 months<br>" 1896 ...       | 234                             | 14    | 0   | 90    | 0     | 0  | 24               | 0     | 0   | 12                                          | 0     | 0  | 4                    | 0     | 0  | 12                        | 0     | 0  | 20                            | 0     | 0  | ...                          | ...   | ... | 26              | 0     | 0   | 422     | 14    | 0  |
| Totals.                              | 720                             | 2     | 0   | 660   | 0     | 0  | 161              | 0     | 0   | 114                                         | 15    | 2  | 57                   | 0     | 0  | 226                       | 0     | 0  | 198                           | 14    | 4  | 256                          | 7     | 0   | 305             | 0     | 0   | 2,699   | 6     | 6  |

|                                          |          |         |   |   |
|------------------------------------------|----------|---------|---|---|
| leaving cash balance in hand of H.S.     | ...      | Rs. 336 | 9 | 6 |
| to which add our assets, <i>viz.</i> ,   |          |         |   |   |
| Subscriptions arrears outstanding        | ...      | „ 99    | 0 | 0 |
| and balance of current month's Subscrip- |          |         |   |   |
| tions ... ..                             | ...      | „ 20    | 0 | 0 |
|                                          |          |         |   |   |
|                                          | Total... | 455     | 9 | 6 |

While our liabilities are to

|                        |     |         |   |   |
|------------------------|-----|---------|---|---|
| Supreme Grand Chapter  | ... | Rs. 67  | 0 | 0 |
| District Grand Chapter | ... | „ 32    | 0 | 0 |
| Rent of Building       | ... | „ 30    | 0 | 0 |
|                        |     |         |   |   |
|                        |     | Rs. 129 | 0 | 0 |

This Chapter begs to thank the Officers of the District Grand Chapter for their visit to Hyderabad and to express the hope that the same will help to progress and strengthen the Order in these Dominions.

For and in behalf of the Officers and Members of Chapter St. John, No. 434,

We beg to subscribe ourselves,

Most Ex. Sir & Companion,

Yours fraternally,

A. H. STEVENS, P.Z. ... ..Z

J. D. B. GRIBBLE, P.Z. ... ..H.

J. S. HUGGINS, P.Z. ... ..for J.

ARDASEER R. PILCHER, P.Z. ...Treasurer.

GEO. FRED. TURNER, P.Z.... ..Secretary.

Most Ex. Comp. James Stiven, D.G.H., thanked all present warmly for their kind reception of him. He regretted very much that the Grand Superintendent, Col. G. H. J. Moore, C.I.E., was compelled to return to Madras on that very morning or otherwise it would have afforded him great satisfaction to have been present and to witness the large assembly gathered here this evening to do him honour. As to himself, the Most Ex. Companion stated it will give him much pleasure to report to the Most Ex. Grand Superintendent that he has found everything in this Chapter to have been done well and to reflect great credit on all concerned. He felt sure that with the excellent beginning made this year by M. E. Comp. Stevens the position and standing of the Chapter as regarded number and work would be unexceptionally high, and he congratulated him as well as his Officers and Members on the creditable

output of results as are evidenced in the report just read and which he would hand to the Grand Superintendent and District Grand Chapter.

The District Grand H. dwelt at great length on the Excellencies of the Sublime and Holy Royal Arch Degree of Freemasonry, wherein a perfected and complete knowledge of the three Craft degrees was attained, that it inspired its members with the most exalted ideas of God, leading them to the exercise of the most pure and reverential piety, reminding them of the duties they owe to the Most High, the obedience they owe to their superiors, the love they owe to their equals and the goodwill they owe to all mankind, exemplifying in short their love to God by their beneficence to men.

On the conclusion of his remarks the D. G. H. accompanied by his Officers withdrew in procession; and there being no further work before the Chapter, it was closed by the three Principals, in His Name to whom it is dedicated, at 7-20 o'clock P.M.

During the remainder of the year a considerable amount of work was done. Comps. Belcher and Gould were admitted as Joining Members, and Bros. Purton (Major), E. L. Wright (Capt.), Nepean and Lieut. Devlin were exalted (October and November).

Bro. (Capt.) Marshall, V.C., was exalted, and Most Ex. Comp. A. H.

Jan. 1897. Stevens was re-elected P. Z., an honour he fully deserved since his past year of office had been a record one. Comps. Gould and Raghunath Prasad were elected P. H. and P. J. respectively. During the year 1897 the Chapter lost a good many members owing to the Northamptonshire Regiment being sent to the Front (Tirah Campaign) and other officers being also called away on duty. The Chapter now meets every alternate month, the intermediate months being given to the Mark Lodge. Comps. Robert Hall and Moinudeen were admitted as Joining Members and Bros. Lovegrove, Armstrong and Whately were exalted. Considering the circumstances, the Chapter did well during the year.

Bro Campbell was exalted and the writer of these annals was elected P. Z. with Comps. Raghunath Prasad and G. F.

Jan. 1898. Turner as H. and J. respectively, Most Ex. Comp. Stevens being elected Scribe E. During the year that ensued there were five exaltations—Bros. Bayliss, Mahomed Zahoor, (Dr.) Popat, (Sergt.) Chapham and DeSouza (Janitor).

Ex. Comp. Raghunath Prasad elected and installed as P. Z., Ex. Comp. Moinudeen as H. and there being no other member

Jan. 1899. eligible the author was elected J. War, Famine and Plague had deprived the Chapter of many of its members absent on duty. During this year there were several resignations of old members, amongst

those Comps. Huggins, Viccajee and J. Carrs, the latter having been one of the original members when the Chapter was resusitated. It received, however, a welcome addition in the shape of Most Ex. Comp. (Major) Vesey Davoren of the Indian Medical Department, who having joined the station from Lodge Malwa is now taking a prominent part in all the Masonic Institutions.

The death of the senior Past P. Z. the excellent Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher was recorded with expressions of sorrow and regret. Comp. Lient.-Col. Heathcote, R.E., elected joining member and Bro. Sergius Pahlaw as candidate for exaltation. The remainder of the year was uneventful.

Ex. Comps. Moinuddien, Davoren and Heathcote elected as Z., H. and J. and the author as Treasurer. The year began well with four candidates for exaltation: Bros. Day, Laver, Seaborn and Taylor, and two joining members (Woledge and Nadershah Pilcher, son of the late Ardaseer Pilcher). At the next Meeting three candidates were elected—Bros. G. Williams, Christopher Norris and E. M. Shipway and Comp. Venkataswamy Naidu as joining member. In April there were two new candidates, Bros. Fairbairn, (Rev'd.) Welchman, and Comp. Rustumjee Patel as joining member, and exalted in June. In July at an Emergent Meeting, Bros. (Captains) Archibald Roberts and H. R. Brown of the 2nd H. C. were elected and exalted. At this Meeting a discussion was raised as to the way in which candidates should be prepared for exaltation, some members holding that the words "prepared as a M. M." meant that he should be presented as a M. M. who had received the sublime degree, and others that he should be presented as a F. C. about to take the degree. It was resolved to refer the question to the Grand Superintendent and in the meantime the P. Z. ordered the latter course to be adopted. In October Bros. Coulter and (Major) Morse were elected and exalted together with Bros. Seaborn and Tucker already ballotted for. A decision was read of the Grand Superintendent that candidates should be prepared as M. M. In December no less than seven candidates were proposed for exaltation: Bros. Outlaw, Frankel, Patch and Hamilton of Mayo, and Mahomed Siddick, Lee and Boardman of Deccan.

A very well attended Meeting, the pleasure of which was marred by the announcement of the death of H. M. Queen Victoria, which was received with expressions of unfeigned sorrow and a letter of sympathy ordered to be sent through the Grand Superintendent to H. M. King Edward VII. Comp. Newton, P.J. of District Grand Chapter of Bengal, elected a joining member

and Bros. H. E. French, G. R. Hackford, W. H. Ruddle, J. W. Atkinson, A. D. Cox all of Mayo were elected as candidates, and three (Mahomed Siddick, French and Cox) were exalted. Comps. G. F. Turner, Woledge and Coulter were invested as Z., H. and J. respectively. Ex. Comp. Davoren would have been elected had he not been transferred to Wellington on duty. The Chapter is now in a prosperous state with a cash balance of over Rs. 300 and a large number of members (actual number 25—the Chapter standing 1st in the District with 14 exaltations). In April Comps. Daw and Byrne were elected joining members. The names of Bros. Laver, Patch, Lee and Morse were withdrawn. In June the names of two other candidates were withdrawn owing to their having left for Bangalore and four members resigned for the same reason. This was a severe blow for we find from the Annual Report which was read at this Meeting that during the previous year the Chapter had stood first in the District with no less than 14 exaltations, a record in its annals which was only equalled in the following year and which reflects great credit upon the presiding officer, M. Ex. Comp. S. Moinudeen.\* No Convocation was held in October for want of a 3rd Principal, but in December Comps. Daw and Turner were proposed as joining members and Bro. L. J. W. Worgan was exalted together with Bro. W. H. Ruddle who had been previously ballotted for but had not been able to present himself. In the Annual Report the Chapter stands 2nd with three exaltations and 8th in numbers (22 members). At the election which followed Comp. Lieut. J. Daw was elected Z.; Comp. Lieut.-Col. Grove White as H. and Comp. Capt. W. Boardman as J.

The officers were installed at the February Meeting at which also  
 1902. three resignations were accepted and Ex. Comp. Goddard  
 was elected as a joining member. In April Ex. Comp.  
 Major Davoren† who has rejoined the station is again elected a member.  
 Five new candidates were proposed and exalted: Wor. Bro. F. W.

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\* *Note.*—This worthy Companion's name occurs frequently in the annals of Lodge Morland and Chapter Chudderghaut where he has been, and still is, one of the most prominent and distinguished members. He is a member of the Bar and practices in the Hyderabad High Court, where, as in Masonic circles, he enjoys the respect and esteem of all his colleagues.

† During the years 1898—1904, this Brother although constantly being sent away on duty appears very frequently at all of the Masonic Institutions, and his appearance however short is always accompanied by a number of fresh recruits. Bro. Davoren is a very keen Mason and his zeal is frequently alluded to in the proceedings of Grand Lodge and of Grand Chapter. He also belongs to the other Orders and has attained a high rank in each. At present he is on duty in England but we shall gladly welcome him back. He belongs to the R. A. M. C.

Watts, Bros. Walter Grey, Wm. Blackwood, F. Hallas and J. T. Radford. In June four new candidates: Thomson, Judge, Steel and Ahmed Mirza were elected and the two former were exalted. The resignation of M. Ex. Comp. A. H. Stevens was accepted with regret. For more than 11 years this Brother had been a leading member of all the Lodges and Institutions in each of which he had filled the highest posts. To the great regret of the Masonic community from this date his name no longer appears at their assemblies, although his energies are still directed towards doing good amongst the non-Masons. In August Comps. Hammond and Syed Hussain Bilgrami were elected at a well-attended Meeting. The latter, known as Nawab Imad-ul-Mulk was then a member of the Viceroy's Legislative Council and had for some years been Director of Public Instruction in the Nizam's Dominions. At this Meeting three more brethren (Bliss, Hollins and Laver) were elected and exalted together with Bro. Ahmed Mirza who had been elected at the previous Meeting. In October two new candidates (Haseldine and Wilson) were exalted and three joining members (Hurst, Rosann and Conal) were elected.

From the proceedings of the Permanent Committee we find that the Chapter is now in a most prosperous condition, but there are some deficiencies in the accounts of the late Scribe E. In December Bro. Dr. Kareem Khan was elected as a candidate for exaltation, together with Bros. Imbush and G. F. White and the two latter were exalted. At the election which followed, M. Ex. Comp. Daw was unanimously re-elected P. Z., a most well-deserved honour for his year of office had been one of genuine hard work. This opportunity may be taken of paying a tribute to the excellence of this worthy Brother's work both in the Craft and the R. A. Especially in the latter did he exhibit a very high proficiency and is one of the few whom the writer has met who was able to deliver every one of the long and intricate lectures which forms a portion of the ceremonies of this degree. Unfortunately his stay in the station was a limited one and he was after about three years residence transferred on duty elsewhere. Comps. Boardman and Watts were elected P. H. and P. J. respectively. At this Meeting the resignation of the writer was tendered who at the time was seriously ill and was about to leave India, as he supposed for good. It was accepted with regret and a kindly letter of sympathy was sent to him. Two Companions (Davidson and Lobb) were proposed for as joining members and Bro. B. Sharp of Lodge Mayo for exaltation.

A well-attended Meeting (17 present). Bros. Mirza Kareem Khan and Sharp were exalted and the new Principals were installed. It was resolved to present Ex. Comp. Daw

1903.

with a photograph and to hang a copy in the Lodge Dining-room as a remembrance of his excellent work and prosperous year of office (17 brethren exalted and 9 joinings). Comps. Moberly \* and Dickson proposed as joining members and Bros. Hill and Metzker as candidates for exaltation.

From the Audit Committee's report we find that the Chapter was in a very prosperous condition. There was in the Bank Rs. 565-1-8; Rs. 144-8-6 outstanding dues and Rs. 349-1-11, due by the late Treasurer. During the year only one exaltation (Bro. Peacock) appears to have taken place but at the last Meeting in December one joining member (Comp. J. P. Davies) and two candidates were proposed (Bros. Blakeney and Dawson).

Bros. Boardman, Watts and Hammond installed as P. Z., H. and J. respectively. Two resignations on transfer were received (Comps. Davoren and Peacock). The cash in the Bank has increased to Rs. 921-10-5; in hand Rs. 47-0-2 the outstandings are only Rs. 59-8-0, and the liability of the late Treasurer has been reduced to Rs. 199-8-0. Altogether a credit balance of Rs. 1,246-2-1, a very satisfactory state of things. Bro. Capt. Boardman who had been installed at the first Meeting was called away to the Grand Chapter above, before the 2nd Meeting in April. Ex. Comp. Watts the P. H. was elected to fill his place, Hammond to be H. and Comp. Moberly to be J. and installed in their several offices in April. In June of this year Comps. Hamilton and Cox were elected as joining members and the following brethren were exalted: Bros. Capon, Nawab Syed Ali Mahomed Khan and Lowe. In August four more brethren were exalted (Willoughby, Dinnis, Dawson and Hilton).

Ex. Comps. Moberly, Nawab Syed Hussain Bilgrami and Frankel elected as Z., H. and J. respectively. In February three brethren (Kenny, Baker and Jones) were elected for exaltation and Comps. Hovell, Knox, Haddon and Finney of the Manchester Regiment as joining members. It was resolved to invest Rs. 500 of the surplus funds in Government Paper. In April two more candidates, Rowly and Whatmon, were exalted. At this Meeting the death of Comp. LeGrys was announced and his widow being left in poor

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\* Bro. C. H. D. Moberly was the Agent of the Bank of Bengal and had recently come to the station from Burma. He at once joined almost all the Masonic Institutions working in Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and during the next three years played a very prominent part in Masonry and during that time ruled not only the Craft Lodge of St. John but also the R. A. Chapter, the Mark, the 18 degree, the K. T.; the Secret Monitor, and the Royal Ark Mariner. He left the station on promotion early in 1906.

circumstances Rs. 100 were voted to her from Chapter funds in addition to Rs. 117 subscribed by the Companions. From the Permanent Committee's report in August we find that the assets of the Chapter amount to Rs. 1,057-9-4, of which Rs. 500 was invested; Rs. 292-11-7 in hand; outstandings Rs. 74-9-0 only; in the Steward's account Rs. 40-4-9 and still due by the Ex. Scribe E. Rs. 150. In August the writer was present as visitor and acted as P. H., no business was transacted. In December Bro. Moss was elected and exalted and it was resolved to purchase a vote in the Madras Masonic Institute. The election of Principals was not held at this Meeting as has been the custom hitherto.

Comps. Hamilton, Frankel and Davies elected as Z., H. and J. respectively and installed on the same evening, and as  
 1906. this Meeting brings us to the current year we may conclude our notice of Chapter St. John. It is now in a prosperous condition; the members of the Chapter are all actuated by a feeling of good fellowship and everything promises well for a bright future.

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## CHAPTER CHUDDERGHAUT, No. 159, S.C.

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This Chapter was duly constituted under a dispensation granted by Most Ex. Comp. Sir Henry Morland, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Western India, bearing date the 12th January 1875, which dispensation was subsequently confirmed under a Charter from the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland, dated 3rd March 1875.

The Founders were Colin H. Johnston (Z.), P. S. Hudson (H.) and A. P. Mergler (J.); the Officers being W. R. J. S. Graham (E.), C. H. Dewey (N.), W. B. Johnston (Tr.), W. B. Swinton (1st S.), E. C. Johnston (2nd S.) and J. Kirby (3rd S.)

The first record is of a so-called Inauguration Meeting held on 16th January, 1875, at which Bro. Thompson presided as P. Z. and installed Ex. Comps. Colin Johnston, Hudson and Mergler as Principals Z., H. and J. respectively. No less than 18 candidates were balloted for and two Companions elected as Joining Members, so that the Chapter opened under good auspices.

English Masons are perhaps not aware that in the Scotch Royal Arch six degrees are worked, *viz.*, the Mark, the Excellent, the Royal Arch, the Royal Ark Mariner, the Red Cross and the Knights of the East and West, or the Babylonish Pass. No one can be made a R. A. Companion until he has passed through the first two degrees of Mark and Excellent. At present the Most Excellent P. Z. is *ex-officio* Ruler of the different degrees.

Most Ex. Comps. Morland and Thompson, the latter of whom had come from Bombay to open the Chapter were elected Honorary Members. The Chapter did not close until midnight. For the next few months the time of the Chapter was fully taken up in conferring the various degrees on the several candidates and in framing bye-laws, and the Chapter seems to be working well and harmoniously. In the second year, however, dissensions begin, the first being occasioned by the Treasurer Comp. W. B. Johnston, not having supplied the Scribe E. (Comp. Colin Johnston) with the funds required for Grand Chapter dues.

In October 1875 an Installation Meeting was held at which Ex. Comp. Col. Sheppard from Chapter St. John assisted. A vote of thanks was recorded and several pleasant amenities passed. From remarks made it appears that the opening of the Chapter had at first caused some ill-feeling amongst members of the Sister Chapter, but this seems now to have passed away. During the next few months several members of the St. John's Chapter joined Chapter Chudderghaut.

The matter of arrears soon began to give trouble especially as kit and paraphernalia had been ordered and the funds in hand were not sufficient to pay for it. In May, 1876, the two Chapters mutually elect the Past and Present Principals as Honorary Members. In June it was resolved to exclude Comp. W. B. Johnston for non-payment of arrears, and there is a deficiency of from Rs. 600 to 700 in making up the payment of the bill for £70 for kit, etc. This difficulty appears to have been got over in due course.

Ex. Comp. Colin Johnston appears to be the most prominent factor in the Chapter. He is the Scribe E. and Treasurer and appears to have great difficulty in keeping the members up to the mark. He is also very loquacious and appears to be fond of recording his speeches *in extenso*. But although apparently very touchy and irritable, it is due to him to say that he is generally in the right and works for the interest of the Chapter. He must, however, have been a very difficult Brother to get on with, and scenes such as were frequent in Lodge Deccan are constantly occurring in the Chapter. In every Lodge where he is present Bro. Colin Johnston is the prominent feature. He is always in evidence, and his great zeal must have been sometimes wearisome. After all the pursuit of Masonry should add a pleasure to one's life and not a burden.

There is little of interest to record. The Meetings are very slightly attended and the arrears give considerable trouble. On the 24th September, 1877, the Chapter seems to have been considerably exercised over the publication of certain articles which had appeared in the "Standard" and "Masonic Record." The articles are not reproduced but it was resolved to refer the question to the Provincial Grant Chapter for notice. Evidently there has been a traitor in the Camp. Very little is done during the next few months and on 23rd August, 1878, Ex. Comp. Colin Johnston draws attention to the arrears list and raises the question "whether there is any use in keeping the Chapter open any longer."

At the Installation Meeting in 4th September, 1879, an unpleasant incident occurred in which Comp. Colin Johnston was again

concerned. He was attacked by Comp. Grimley apparently regarding some incident that had occurred outside the Chapter and an angry discussion followed, which resulted in Comp. Grimley leaving the Chapter and resigning his membership. Comp. Colin Johnston is again entirely in the right. It is singular to find that whilst in every Meeting we find eulogies passed upon Bro. Colin Johnston's zeal and work, and from year to year the confidence in him practically shown by re-electing him to the post of Scribe E. and Treasurer, still he is always the object of some attack or the cause of some quarrel. Attempts made to patch up this quarrel did not succeed, and on the matter being referred to a Special Committee it was resolved, that Comp. Grimley's resignation should not be accepted but that he should be excluded.

Nothing of interest occurs until September 1880 when the Chapter closed and was not again opened until March 1881. This interval appears to have been caused by absence of Comp. Colin Johnston but immediately on his return he takes steps to re-open the Chapter under a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Chapter. This Brother appears again in the capacity not only of P. Z. but also of Scribe E. and Treasurer. Comp. A. W. Forbes was then elected P. Z.; Mahomed Ali Khan as P. H. and Colin Johnston as P. J., as well as Scribe E. and Treasurer. Three candidates were proposed, the number of actual members being only eight. In November 1881 Comp. Colin Johnston again leaves the station. No Meeting was held until March 1882, when this worthy Brother again appears and officiates as P. Z. He again accepts the former offices of Scribe and Treasurer. In May there was a well-attended Meeting to work the degrees of the Royal Ark Mariner and Babylonish Pass. In September 1882 a jewel was voted to Comp. Colin Johnston for his services. The Chapter continues a very precarious existence. Between January and September 1883 there were no Meetings, and at the latter Comp. Stone was installed as P. Z. The next Meeting was on the 3rd November. At this Meeting a letter from the Provincial Grand Chapter was read expressing sympathy with the unfortunate position in which the Chapter has been placed, but congratulating the few members who had resolved to put their shoulders to the wheel and save the Chapter from extinction.

These proceedings however are not signed, and for eight years the Chapter remained in abeyance, the next Meeting being on 8th February, 1892. In the interval Bro. Colin Johnston had passed away and the only surviving member of the triad was Bro. Ben Johnston. The Chapter re-opens with thirteen members on the list and during the next three years had a considerable amount of prosperity. This revival coincided with the boom in Lodge Morland of which the writer was then Rt. Wor.

Master. A number of the Morland members joined the Chapter which was still working in the Grammar School. When, however, the Morland Assembly Rooms were opened in December 1893, the Chapter resolved to throw in its lot with Lodge Morland and in consideration of receiving a permanent right of occupancy it resolved to hand over to the Lodge all its surplus funds. In return the Lodge undertook to provide a complete kit and furniture for all the degrees which it did at a cost £112 or H. S. Rs. 2,416 towards which the Chapter contributed H. S. Rs. 1,900 as surplus fund during this short period, which shows that it was in a prosperous condition. During the following four years the P. Z. Chair was occupied by Ex. Comps. Mansab Ali, Hukam Chand, the writer and A. H. Stevens. In the middle of 1895, however, the unfortunate collapse of Lodge Morland occurred. The Chapter at once felt the effects and as the few who remained faithful to Morland had enough to do to keep it alive, the Chapter fell into abeyance. The last Meeting was held on the 11th December, 1896, when it was resolved to close the Chapter and it did not again meet until 1902, when the writer was deputed by the Provincial Grand Chapter to re-open it. He was received with the honours due to the representative of the Provincial Grand Chapter. The Chapter having been formally opened, the Companions proceeded to elect Ex. Comp. S. M. Moinudeen as P. Z.; Ex. Comp. Syed Ahmed as P. H.; and Ex. Comp. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad as P. J. The writer being at that time in a very bad state of health then withdrew and the Installation ceremony was performed by Ex. Comps. Vesey Davoren and Daw from Chapter St. John.

The first question before the resuscitated Chapter was that of outstandings and it was resolved that 75 per cent of the arrears standing against the names of old members on the date when the Chapter went into abeyance should be struck off in consideration of their paying the balance before the next meeting of the Chapter. This Resolution was passed at an Emergent Meeting on the 7th November 1902, and several Special Meetings were held during the month in order to regulate the affairs of the Chapter. When the Chapter went into abeyance there was a balance of Rs. 150 to its credit which had been sent to the Provincial Grand Chapter. A refund of this sum was now asked for.

Eight members present. The proceedings of the Emergent Meetings were confirmed. Bro. Raghunath Prasad who had been appointed as a P. J. drew attention to the fact that he was an English R. A. Mason and had been affiliated to Chapter Chudderghaut just before it went into abeyance. When resuscitated he had been elected to the 3rd Chair and installed, but it now occurred to him that he had never taken the Excellent degree which, under the Scotch Consti-

Dec. 12, 1902.

tution, was an essential preliminary before he could become a Scotch R.A. Mason at all. It was resolved to refer the question to the Provincial Grand Chapter.

During the next three months very little is done, three joining members are admitted but the attendance is very small and sometimes not enough for a quorum. Ex. Comp. T. Srinivasachari is the Treasurer and the funds are being carefully nursed, the cash balance in hand being already Rs. 302.

Comps. Syed Ahmied,\* Raghunath Prasad and  
 April 10, 1903. T. Srinivasachari elected as P. Z., P. H. and P. J. respectively.

(All these proceedings are properly recorded, but they are not signed by the P. Z.)

A well-attended Meeting of 14 members and one visitor. Several  
 May 7, 1903. old members rejoin the Chapter which is now acquiring stability. Very little business of importance is transacted during this official year but the financial condition is improving and the cash balance is Rs. 462-8-0. The outstandings however are still heavy.

September. Ex. Comp. Bakshi Raghunath Prasad elected P. Z. Srinivasachari, P. H. and Abdus Samad, P. J.

Only one candidate has been admitted and the attendance continuing very small it was resolved to hold a Meeting  
 Jan. 1904. every two months. Apparently the degrees of Royal Ark Mariner, the Babylonish Pass and the Red Cross have not been worked for several years.

Bro. Hormusji J. Panthaki elected as a member and during the  
 June. ensuing Meetings was advanced and exalted; Bro. Nawab Seyd Ali Mahomed Khan (a M. M.) was also elected and duly advanced. By the end of the official (Lodge) year the cash balance has risen to Rs. 802-7-1 which, considering the small attendance, is extremely creditable. There are, however, still large outstanding arrears.

Ex. Comps. T. Srinivasachari, Abdus Samad and N. D.  
 Sept. 23. Dittia elected P. Z., P. H. and P. J. respectively. The former was also installed as W. M. of the Mark Lodge.

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\* This Brother has been a very constant supporter of the Chudderghaut Masonic Institutions and enjoys the esteem of all the brethren there. He holds the position of Deputy Accountant-General in His Highness' Government and is a highly respected member of Native Society.

The cash balance has risen to Rs. 961-15-2. During the next few Meetings Bros. Nadershah A. Pilcher (son of the late Rt. Jan. 1905. Wor. Ardaseer Pilcher) and Donald Macdonald were elected and raised through the various degrees, the former as a serving Brother.

Ex. Comps. Abdus Samad, N. D. Dittia and R. P. Rustom Fram were elected P. Z., P. H. and P. J. respectively. The writer September. having rejoined after an absence of two years was asked to perform the ceremony and was elected as Scribe E. Ex. Comp. Abdus Samad was installed as W. M. of the Mark Lodge. At the following Meeting in November Bros. R. Vasudeva Rau and Mahomed Ali Mirza were admitted and initiated as Mark Masons. Wor. Bro. and Comp. Col. Little proposed as a Joining Member.

This closes the proceedings of the Chapter for the year 1905. Arrangements have been made to cancel the old arrangement with Lodge Morland in regard to paying over surplus funds by the payment of a lump sum of Rs. 400, in consideration of which the Chapter is to become the absolute proprietor of the kit and furniture and in future to pay a rent for each Meeting. Although the numerical strength is still small and there are several large outstandings in the shape of arrears, the Chapter has reached a sound financial basis. By the patience and steady perseverance of a few members such as Ex. Comps Bakshi Raghunath Prasad, S. M. Moinudeen, T. Srinivasachari, R. P. Rustom Fram, Syed Ahmed and Abdus Samad, it has passed through its "bad days" and is now in a fair way towards prosperity. The share of the writer in this good work was but small. Not only was he for a long time absent from the station, but previous to that he had been prevented by ill-health from attending the Meetings. The credit therefore for the resuscitation of the Chapter is due entirely to the brethren above-mentioned, and for many years it must have been up-hill and discouraging work; all the more credit therefore to them for their unselfish and persevering labours.

## ROYAL DECCAN PRECEPTORY AND PRIORY OF KNIGHTS TEMPLARS AND MALTA.

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As in the Royal Arch and the Mark degrees there seems to be little doubt the Knight Templar degree was worked in connection with the Craft Lodge for several years before a regular charter was obtained. There is internal evidence of this not only in the records of the Proceedings of Lodge St. John, but also in the list of the members of the Lodge in which a column had been opened showing the highest rank each member attained. The first record of any proceedings in this order is dated 1852, which also is given as the date of the opening of the Encampment, but as far back as 1828 and after that, at intervals, instances occur of members of Lodge St. John who were also Knights Templars and it is difficult to understand where they could have got the degree unless in Secunderabad. Again there is the incident noted in the annals of St. John of the Brother who came up from Madras in 1835 (?) in order to instruct the brethren in various higher degrees. As regards the R. A. we have seen that immediately after the Craft Lodge was opened in 1822 this degree was being worked apparently under a borrowed warrant. However that may be, there can be no doubt that the first regular proceedings in the Kt. T. were held on 31st December, 1852, and with them are embodied the "Regulations of the Encampment of St. John." It opened with only three members. No number is mentioned and as the actual charter is dated 1866, it seems probable that the Encampment was opened without due authority. The names of the three founders are E. G. Papell, Simon Taylor and Arthur Salmon, none of which appear on the register of St. John for several years previous or subsequent to the date of opening. At this Meeting Bro. W. T. Farewell (Lieut., 45th M. N. I.) and D. G. Pollard were dubbed Knights, and S. Taylor was installed as Commander. There was no other Meeting until the 28th July 1853, when Sir Knight S. Taylor's name appears as Commander. The other two founders' names do not appear, and it is therefore probable that they had come for the express purpose of opening the Encampment and were not residents. At the Meeting of July, no less than six brethren were elected—Geddes, Shelley, Ritherdon, Allan, Ricketts and G. Palmer, all of whom were members of St. John. Two days afterwards another Meeting was held when these brethren were inducted, and three others, Doria, Maillardet, and Phillips were

elected, and another Meeting was held three days afterwards for their installation. At this Meeting it was resolved to apply to the Grand Conclave of England, through Sir Knight Salmon who appears to have gone Home for a regular warrant, and it was also resolved that all R. A. Companions belonging to Chapter St. John should be entitled to take the Kt. T. degree on payment of Rs. 40.

At this stage the Encampment which had opened so auspiciously appears to have come to an end, for we find a note attached to these proceedings to the effect that "no warrant appears to have been issued to this Encampment by the Grand Conclave of England and Wales and it therefore becomes a question whether the proceedings hereinbefore set-forth are legal. To be submitted for decision of the M. E. Supreme Grand Master.

SECUNDERABAD, }  
25th June, 1866. }

AUBREY SAUNDERS, E.C.,  
*Royal Deccan Encampment.*

On the same date however, that is 13½ years after the opening above recorded, a Meeting was held under a special dispensation of the Very Eminent Provincial Commander of the Presidency, Colonel Pitt MacDonald and the encampment is designated "The Royal Deccan Encampment of Knights Templars." The Knights present at this Meeting were Sir K. Aubrey Saunders as E. C., R. W. Berkeley as 1st Captain, E. G. Balfour as 2nd Captain.

A regular charter having been applied for, the dispensation to hold the Meeting was read and nine names were proposed as candidates. All these were members of Chapter St. John. They were all military men and their names were Capt. O. F. Smithers, Lieut. E. Walker, Lieut. A. T. Perkins, J. Wilkins, G. Simon, Lieut. A. F. Dobbs, Lieuts. C. J. O. Fitzgerald and F. W. Bedingfield and Colr.-Sergt. Robertson. During the next four months there was a Meeting every month. Several new members were elected, amongst whom the name of Bro. Capt. Tillard may be mentioned. In September Sir Kt. Capt. Smithers was elected E. Commander for the ensuing year and installed on 19th October. And now there occurs a gap of a year and the next proceedings are dated 7th November, 1868. Sir Kt. Saunders is acting as E. Commander, and Knights Smithers and Doria as 1st and 2nd Captains. Col. Doria and Major Twentyman were inducted, and two others proposed as candidates. Two Emergent Meetings were held on the 9th and 10th November for the installation of Bro. Capt. Law and Sergt. Hills, and Col. Gadsden was elected as a candidate. During the next month there were two Meetings for the installation of fresh candidates and then there occurs a gap of five months until 15th May,

1869, when Sir Kt. Major Twentyman was elected E. Commander for the next year. This Brother accepted the office but does not appear to have been installed because during the next three Meetings he appears as either 1st or 2nd Captain.

In May 1870, however, Sir Kt. Twentyman was again elected E. Commander and was installed in the following month. No figures are given of the actual strength of the Encampment, but the Meetings appear to be frequent, in fits and starts and the attendance is very fair, averaging about eight. The moving spirit of the Encampment since its re-opening appears to have been Major Aubrey Saunders, afterwards District Grand Master of Madras. In the December Meeting (1870) we find his resignation recorded as he is leaving the station. At this Meeting it was also resolved to contribute a sum of Rs. 110 towards the cost of improvements carried out by Lodge St. John. Lieut. R. A. Dobbs who had been put on the retired list but who had not joined another Encampment was admitted an absent member without a joining fee and at a subsequent Meeting (April 1871) a Resolution was passed, that no joining fee should be paid by any member rejoining after an absence, if an application be made within three months of his return.

On 20th May, 1871, Col. Gadsden was elected Commander. A Provincial Grand Conclave had been formed at Madras and Sir Kts. Gadsden and Twentyman were appointed Provincial Grand Hospitaller and Director of Ceremonies respectively. The Meetings here are now quarterly and average about seven in attendance. A testimonial on Vellum had been sent to Sir Kt. Col. Saunders and was acknowledged by him on 21st October, 1871.

In January 1872, we find that Bro. Colin Johnstone, who plays so leading a part in the Craft Lodges was elected and together with Col. Sheppard was installed in February 1872. A demi-official letter from the Provincial Grand Chancellor was read at this Meeting approving of the names of certain candidates for installation and that in future the names of all candidates should be submitted to the Provincial Grand Conclave, but if an early reply was not received, it might be taken for granted that the Provincial Grand Commander approved and the installation might be proceeded with. In May 1872, Col. Sir Kt. Gadsden was elected E. C. Nothing of importance occurred during the remainder of the year, and owing to departures the strength of the Encampment was very low. In December there were not four Knights available to form a quorum for an installation.

In February 1873 two new candidates were installed. Sir Kt. Sheppard was elected E. C. and installed by dispensation, he not having

qualified as a Captain commanding a Column. Nothing of importance occurred during his year of office ; Meetings were held regularly and there were a few admissions and the same number of retirements, the strength and average attendance remaining about the same and seldom, if ever, amounting to more than 10.

1874-75. E. H. Stone elected E. P. Bro. Carrs has joined and is Grand Chaplain. Scarcely any business was done during this year beyond the four regulation Meetings.

1875-76. Bro. Hills, E. P. During this term Comps. Glending, Inglis and Major Ashton Mayne are installed as Knights. The former of these two unfortunately died only two months after his installation and P. E. P. Stone leaves the station.

1876-77. Bro. Carrs elected E. P. (This worthy Mason has been working steadily for the past few years through the Craft and the Royal Arch and, at the time of writing, is still on the active list of several of the Masonic Institutions although he resides at a distance of more than 100 miles. His portrait is given on another page as that of a most worthy and deserving Mason.)

During this year Bro. Major (afterwards General) Campbell was installed as a Kt. T. He like Bro. Carrs was also for many years one of the most prominent amongst the Masons of the Station, until about eleven years later he relinquished Freemasonry, entirely disgusted apparently at the want of fraternal feeling displayed by some of the brethren. Bro. Campbell was actuated by a very strong religious feeling, and was essentially a Christian in his life and conduct. Some fifteen years ago he told the writer that his reason for giving up Masonry was that he found so many brethren unworthy of their profession. This, however, is to be found in every creed and profession. It is the presence of men like Bro. Campbell that raises the tone of any society they belong to, and for this reason they should not lose heart at the unworthiness of some. Bro. Campbell during the last 10 years of his career was a prominent mover in the Y. M. C. Association, and his name is still held in high esteem. His photograph is also reproduced.

The only other Knight installed during the year appears to have been Bro. Wingfield, but there were at least two retirements one being that of E. P. Shepperd.

1877-78. T. E. Myers elected as E. P. (This Brother was a Civil Engineer and for some time past has been an active member of Craft and R. A.) During this year Bro. B. L. Johnstone, a prominent member of Lodge Deccan, was installed as a Kt. T.

Sir K. Major Ashton Mayne elected as E. P. The installation ceremony was performed by Sir Kt. Fraser, District Grand Sub-Prior of the Burmah Preceptory. Twelve regular members were present and installed as office-bearers, the attendance on this occasion being exceptionally large. The financial condition of the Encampment being good (Rs. 284-4-4 being in hand) certain necessary articles were ordered from England at a cost of £7 16s.

Comp. Maurice Wilkinson was installed as Kt. T. (July 1878). This worthy Brother has for some time been an active member of Masonry in Chudderghaut and was one of the founders of Lodge Morland. The death of Sir Kt. Patterson and the first Herald Sir Kt. Ogilvie occurred during the year and Sir Kts. V. B. Colquhoun and Myers resigned on leaving the station.

Sir Kt. Campbell elected E. P. The name of Comp. Colin Johnstone appears again for installation as he had failed to appear on his election four years previously.

Sir Kt. Tew elected E. P. Comp. Colin Johnstone withdrew his name for installation. Bro. Campbell gave a lecture on Knight Templarism. Two resignations during the year, Sir Kts. Taylor and Wahab, who were returning to England. An eloquent speech eulogizing the latter was made by Bro. Campbell.

B. L. Johnston elected as E. P. A eulogy pronounced in favour of the relieving E. P., Sir Kt. Ashton Mayne, who left the station. During the year the Preceptory attached to the Royal Scots Fusiliers on leaving the station presented the whole of their kit to the Royal Deccan Preceptory. This is the first notice we find of a Military Preceptory working in the station.

For some reason or other not given there is a gap after the December Meeting of 1881. The next Meeting is dated 19th August, 1882. Sir Kt. B. Johnston is entered as the E. P., but the proceedings are not signed and the Encampment seems to have been in abeyance for 10 years when the following note occurs :

“ From a careful perusal of the above Minutes of the Royal Deccan Preceptory it appears that the Encampment was opened on 31st December, 1852, and that up to this date this last recorded Meeting was held on 17th November, 1884, the Minutes of which are however unsigned.

7th February, 1894.

(Signed) A. H. STEVENS.

*Note.*—It is a curious coincidence that the existence of the Encampment and Priory should have terminated immediately after the election of Bro. Ben Johnston as the E. P. It will be remembered that in the annals of Lodge

Deccan, Bros. Colin, Ben, and W. B. Johnston were for many years the centres of constant disputations and it seems most probable that the abrupt closure of the Encampments working was due to some friction. When the Encampment re-opened in 1894, Bro. Ben Johnston was the only surviving member of the family. He was present on the occasion and alluded to the fact that he had been the E. P. when the old Encampment ceased to work.

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The Minutes of the Priory were kept separately from those of the Encampment but have since been bound up together. The last Minutes of the Priory are dated 16th July, 1881. There being nothing of interest transacted in the Priory beyond the exaltation of members received in the Encampment, no special notice of them is necessary.

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During the time the Encampment was in abeyance, the Charter was kept by Sir Kt. Carrs and in 1894 when there was a boom in the Morland Lodge it was resolved by the writer and Bro. A. H. Stevens to re-open the Encampment and Priory in the new Morland Assembly rooms. Bro. Stevens had already taken the degree in Bombay. The necessary sanction having been obtained from the Provincial Grand Prior the Encampment was re-opened on the 8th February 1894, by Sir Kt. Carrs and Sir Kt. Huggins. Bro. A. H. Stevens was received and obligated as a joining member and a Regular Meeting was called for the 2nd April when Bros. Templeton, Milligan and the writer were installed. Sir Kt. Carrs was then elected E. P. for the ensuing year.

In a country like India, the higher degree Institutions of Freemasonry must always have a very precarious existence. In the first place they are essentially Christian and therefore Hindus, Mahomedans and Parsees are necessarily excluded. They can therefore only be recruited from Europeans, and as the qualifications for the higher degrees can only be gained by passing through various lower degrees the number of candidates eligible is necessarily limited. By the time a Brother has worked his way through, he may be transferred. There is not as in England a resident European population of which members may become eligible in due course for the higher degrees. Every now and then there comes a little boom, and the prospects may be promising, but then there always occurs a reaction, and there are not sufficient numbers to keep the Institution going. The care which is taken to keep these higher degrees select makes it difficult for them to work efficiently for there is no resident reserve to fall back upon. As regards the Secunderabad Encampment, we have seen, that at the best of times it could not depend upon an attendance of more than eight, and generally not more

than five or six. These members generally occupy prominent positions in the other institutions, Craft, Royal Arch, 18<sup>th</sup>, Knights Templars, Secret Monitor, etc., etc. They are always either officials or professional men and it is absolutely impossible for them to devote the time to learn the ritual so as to be able to confer a degree without a book. It may be taken as a general rule in India—(the writer was initiated in 1865) that it is only in a few of the Craft Lodges that a degree is given without a book being used. With so changing a population from which members can be drawn, it would almost seem desirable that the introduction of Institutions working the higher degrees should be discouraged.

If this is true it is truth learned only by experience, for in 1894 there was no one keener than the writer in endeavouring to resuscitate the old Royal Deccan Preceptory. We certainly succeeded, and although we began with only six members and for the last 12 years have rarely had an attendance of more, the Encampment still exists. Every now and then there is a sudden influx of young and zealous Masons, but in a few months they disappear, they wander elsewhere and the brunt of the work falls upon the shoulders of the few who remain, now more or less superannuated.

After this apologia it is necessary to come back to the history of our Encampment.

The third Meeting of the resuscitated Encampment was held on the 13th August, 1894. The brethren present were Sir Kts. Carrs (E.P.), Stevens, Gribble, Templeton, Huggins, and Milligan (Frater). Two candidates (Capt. Hehir and Dr. Kelly) were proposed. An Emergent Meeting was held seven days afterwards when Comp. Dr. Kelly was dubbed a Kt. of Malta. In October Capt. Hehir was admitted to the same honor, and no further Meeting was held until the 1st March, 1895, when six members were present.

Sir Kt. Stevens was elected E. P. Comp. Capt. Augt. 26, 1895. Coleman was elected as a candidate, but no further business was transacted.

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A gap of two years now occurs during which no Meetings had been held. The unfortunate incident alluded to in the history of Lodge Morland had occurred and the infant Encampment, only just beginning to feel its legs, was for the time bowled over. But the few remaining members resolved to try again. Sir Kt. Stevens was still the E. P. as no other election had been held, and he

was supported by the writer, Sir Kt. Huggins and Frater Milligan. Four candidates were elected: Col. Little, A. G. Fellowes, Frank Stevens, and Joseph Devlin, all members of the Royal Arch and Bro. G. F. Turner as Frater. The four latter were admitted and received the degree of K. T.

The old Charter having been lost, a new Charter of confirmation was received and read in the names of Alfred Henry  
**Jan. 15, 1898.** Stevens as Preceptor, James Dunning Baker Gribble as First Constable, and Frank Stevens as Second Constable. Sir Kt. Gribble was then elected as E. P. for the following year and was installed on 6th August, 1898. The numerical strength was then only eight. Two members were absent on duty and one of the candidates was prevented by sickness from appearing. The Encampment however was solvent and there being enough members to keep it alive, the writer undertook the duty with the resolve to do his best. But for two years there occurred no other opportunity for a Meeting. Plague and Famine had taken away several on duty and there was nothing to be done but to wait for better times, to pay our dues and sit tight.

Four present, Sir Kt. Gribble, E.P., A. H. Stevens, Turner, and  
**May 9, 1900.** Milligan (Frater). Four candidates were elected, namely, Comps. Woledge, Lieut. Pye, S. N. Pahlaw, and Eardley Norton. Comps. Pye and Norton were installed as Knights, but owing to the lateness of the hour the other degrees were not conferred. The fees for Installation and Joining were reduced by one half from Rs. 100 to Rs. 50.

After a long period of waiting a new dawn seemed to be opening  
**Sept. 7, 1901.** out for the Encampment. The writer was still E. P. and was able to announce as candidates Comps. Col. Grove White, Commanding Middlesex Regiment and Major Vesey Davoren, R.A.M.C., who were elected, received, and exalted.

Three new candidates were elected: Comps. Capt. W. O. Boardman, Sgt.-Qr.-Mr. T. Daw and Samuel Frankel and the  
**Dec. 16.** two latter were received and exalted. In spite of the years of scarcity, the Encampment had not only been able to pay its dues but had a small balance in hand of Rs. 250. Sir Kt. Stevens was elected as E. P. for the ensuing year and the writer was enabled to hand over charge to him with a brighter prospect for the future.

Another sudden change. There had not been an opportunity for  
**July 22, 1902.** installing the new E. P. and in the meantime, actuated by the same honourable, though perhaps I may be pardoned for saying, mistaken motives as Bro. Genl. Campbell, this

worthy Brother, who for the last ten years had been one of the leading members of the Masonic Institutions of Secunderabad and Hyderabad resolved to give up Freemasonry entirely. This to our great regret he has done, and we have to deplore the loss of another good and earnest Brother whose example would have greatly benefited the Craft. Although his renunciation in no way benefits himself it leaves us "poor indeed."

A new election was held at this Meeting in consequence of Sir Kt. Stevens' resignation and Sir Kt. Vesey Davoren was elected. It was also resolved to hold the Meetings in future at Secunderabad.

The writer had the pleasure of installing Bro. Vesey Davoren as  
 Feb. 8, 1903. E. P. Comp. Mix was elected as a member and three  
 new candidates: Comps. Byrne, Carroll, and Moberly  
 were proposed and elected.

There is very little to add to this sketch of the proceedings of the Encampment and Priory in December 1903. Sir Kt. Vesey Davoren was elected E. P. and was succeeded in the following year by Sir Kt. C. H. Moberly, the Agent to the Bank of Bengal, who was followed by Sir Kt. Pahlaw who was again succeeded by Sir Kt. J. P. Davies, the present Eminent Preceptor and Prior. There are now 22 members on the rolls, but many of these are absent from the station and the attendance averages about 5 or 6.

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## THE 18° OF ROSE CROIX AND H. R. D. M. GOLCONDA CHAPTER (No. 51).

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There is no gap in the records of this Chapter of Sovereign Princes of the Rose Croix. It was opened on the 15th May, 1873, by Ill. Bro. Edward Tyrell Leith (33°) under authority granted to him by Telegram from Ill. Bro. the Hon'ble James Gibbs, 33°\*, Representative for India of the Supreme Grand Council of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors-General of the 33° of the Antient and Accepted Rite of Freemasonry for England and Wales, and the Dependencies of Great Britain.

The first members and founders were Wor. Bro. (Col.) Sheppard, W. M. of St. Johns, Bros. Colin H. S. Johnston, E. H. Stone, J. A. Butler, C. J. Smith, J. O'Donnell, J. Ogilvie, F. Mennie, W. R. Wynter and P. S. Hudson. Bro. Sheppard was installed as High Prelate in-Charge with orders to convene a Meeting as soon as possible and elect a Most Wise Sovereign. Wor. Bro. (Col.) Gadsden, who, in the meantime had been on leave in Bombay and where he had taken the 18° and on the 31st May was (in his absence) elected M. W. S., was installed on the 2nd June in the presence of Ill. Bros. Tyrell Leith and Macintosh, P.M.W.S., of the 30°. Ill. Bro. Andrew Hay of the 33° was also present. At the next Meeting on the 31st May Bro. Gadsden was again elected. Ten of the ordinary members were present. On the 12th June the 'promises of allegiance' were filled in, the petition for a Warrant signed and the Bye-laws were discussed. On the 18th July officers were appointed, the Bye-laws were passed, and arrangements made for the purchase of various articles required for the use of the Chapter. Bro. Tyrell Leith was elected an Honorary member.

The next Meeting was not held until the 24th January, 1874. The Warrant had been received and was read and the Certificates distributed. The Bye-laws having been duly passed were also read. During the following year Bro. Sheppard was elected as M. W. S. The attendance continued to be very fair averaging ten and several new members joined, amongst them Bro. J. W. Carrs.

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\* A Judge of the High Court of Bombay.

Ex. Bro. Rose Wynter was the M. W. S. during 1875-76 and new members continued to join, amongst them Major (afterwards General) Campbell, whose name is so prominent in the other Lodges, and Wor. Bro. Saussman.

Bro. Colin Johnston was M. W. S. during 1876-77. A Jewel is generally presented to the retiring M. W. S. On the 26th July the regret of the Chapter is recorded at the 'sad accident which has deprived us of our Grand Marshall M. E. and P. B. B. Swinton.' The Chapter having been largely recruited from the 16th Lancers, and this regiment being about to leave, a vote thanking them for services was passed on the P. W. S. Bro. Sheppard was elected an Honorary Member for life.

Ex. Bro. Carrs was elected as M. W. S. for 1877-78. The Chapter has sustained several losses owing to departures and the attendance is smaller; fresh candidates are however announced and advanced.

In February 1878 the correspondence and circular from the Supreme Council of England and Wales were read regarding the rupture with the Supreme Council 33<sup>o</sup> of Scotland arising from the Lausanne Conference. This breach which has since been happily closed appears to have arisen from a misunderstanding. At the same time the order of severance of connection from the Grand Orient of France was also read; a severance which still continues in force. As probably few Masons are acquainted with the details of this controversy, the subjoined copy of the "Memoir" which accompanied it may be of interest, since it conveys information regarding the order which is not generally available.

#### MEMOIR.

"Had the Scotch Delegate to the Congress of Lausanne, Bro. Mackersey, remained to the end of the Conference (instead of leaving after the first preliminary Meeting of one of the Committees and actually before the Congress sat at all), though he professed not to understand the French language, in which the discussions were necessarily carried on, the untenable statement circulated by him in the name of the Scotch Council namely, that the Congress did not express its belief in a personal God, never could have been ventured upon; for the strongest point insisted upon by the Congress was the laying down absolutely that the fundamental principle of the A. and A. S. Rite of thirty-three degrees was the belief in the personality of God, as the Maker, Creator, the Supreme Creator, the Grand Architect of the Universe, the Supreme Being, the members hoping that by such a definition no one could become a member of the A. and A. S. Rite without believing in God as a personal

God, and in order to keep out free thinkers, in contradistinction to certain other bodies, which, by welcoming them to their bosom, have a tendency to become purely materialistic.

To prove how unfair this charge is, and how unscrupulously it has been made, it is only necessary to refer to the "Declaration of Principles." In the first place, secondary evidence is never accepted when primary can be obtained; and yet the Scotch Delegate was only present at a Committee Meeting, and did not remain for the Lausanne Congress, nor has he consulted the Delegates who were there. The Grand Chancellor of the Supreme Council for England, Wales, and the Dependencies of the British Crown, one of the Delegates present at all the Meetings of the Congress, solemnly declares that one great object of the Congress was to prove to the world, by its manifesto, that the A. and A. S. Rite of Masonry would not have within its ranks anyone who did not believe in God as a personal God, the Creator, Maker and Ruler of all things, the Jehovah. Another Delegate, Bro. Hugh Sandeman, Secretary for foreign correspondences solemnly attests the same; and the other, Bro. Dr. Hamilton would do so likewise, were he not absent in the South of Europe, and not likely to return to this country till the autumn. And if the eighth paragraph of the Declaration of Principles be turned to, it will be found in the second, third and fourth lines, "*La Maçonnerie passe en principe que le Createur Supreme a donné à C'hamme, comme le bien le plus precieuse,*" i.e., "the Supreme Creator has given to man." If these words do not mean the sole God, who is above all, and who is a personal God, then no language can do it. The Grand Chancellor speaks the more strongly on this point, because the whole of that paragraph is his. This "Declaration of Principles," as the Scotch Secy.-Genl. and Delegate ought to have known, had he done his duty, was put forth as a triumphant reply to virulent attack that had been made, while the Congress was sitting, by the French ultramontane party, accusing the Freemasons, in the usual abusive terms, of all the bad—isms in the world.

With regard to the second baseless grievance, that the Supreme Council for England and Wales should have exclusive jurisdiction over the British Colonies, the Scotch Council complains that it had no notice that the question of jurisdiction was to be discussed; whereas one Article for discussion sent by the M. P. S. G. Commander for the Southern jurisdiction of the United States was the jurisdiction of Supreme Councils, a copy of which said Articles was sent to the Scotch Council by Bro. Pike. Up to the year

Articles of  
Confederation  
proposed by the  
S. C. for the  
Southern Juris-  
diction of the  
United States  
Articles XI and  
XII.

1870 no trace can be found of this pretension of the Scotch Council to have any jurisdiction over the A. and A. S. Rite out of Scotland in any of the letters that passed between the Scotch and English Councils.

In a letter from Edinburgh, dated the 15th of February, 1871, there is no claim of any such right, though the chief purport of the communication is the constituting of the Scotch Council by that of France in 1848.

Edinburgh, 15th  
Feb., 1871.

In the first letter on record, which passed between the Councils of Scotland and England, although the powers given by the Supreme Council for France to the former body, are to a certain extent set out *in extenso*, no mention is made of the Scottish Council having any jurisdiction other than in Scotland. And the Supreme Council for France, which had seven members of its Rite, including its M. P. S. G. Commander present at the Lausanne Congress, were unanimous that the Supreme Council for England and Wales had exclusive jurisdiction over British Colonies and Dependencies.

Edinburgh, 1866.

In 1868 the Grand Secy.-Genl. of the Scotch Council acknowledged the receipt of a copy of the Rules and Regulations of this Supreme Council which had on its first page the title "for England and Wales and Dependencies of the British Crown." Again in 1871, the M. P. S. G. Commander, Bro. White Melville, acknowledged the receipt of a copy of the same work for that year, having on the title page the same description; but in neither of these answers is there any protest made against the jurisdiction of the English Council; and in another letter, 17th of July, 1871, in answer to a letter from that Council, requesting some explanation as to a supposed attempt of a Scotch Brother to interfere in one of the Dependencies, the Scotch M. P. S. G. Commander writes: "Bro..... being ignorant of the Constitutions of our Ancient Rite, by which, as you well know, no Supreme Council can be formed in any country but by a Sovereign Grand Inspector-General on the spot initiating two others, and that only in a country where the Ancient Rite does not exist." In a subsequent letter the M. P. S. G. Commander qualifies this by saying that he meant a Supreme Council could not be formed, but that Rose Croix Chapter could. No individual Sovereign or Supreme Council can alter the Grand Constitutions, that alone can be done by a General Congress, and these Constitutions say each Supreme Council may authorize Deputies to establish Lodges and Councils in any of the degrees from the 4th to the 29th inclusive, in places where there are no Lodges or Councils of the sublime degrees legally constituted.

Edinburgh, 13th  
Nov., 1868. St.  
Andrews, 7th  
July, 1871.

St. Andrews,  
17th July, 1871.

Article XIII,  
Grand Consti-  
tutions.

And this is strictly logical, for the axiom "that a whole is composed of all its parts" admits of no exception. This inalienable right of every legal Council can only be waived with the consent of all the sister Councils without violating the Grand Constitutions themselves, to do which would render the waiving Council itself illegal: thus logically and constitutionally where a Rose Croix Chapter or any one body of the A. and A. S. Rite of thirty-three degrees exists in working order, then the A. and A. S. Rite is in all its entirety and in its fully constituted rights under the Grand Constitutions and consequently cannot tolerate within the same country any other body under the jurisdiction of another Supreme Council of the A. and A. S. Rite of thirty-three degrees.

Although the English Council considered its rights unassailable, still, in consideration of the friendly intercourse that existed, and should always exist, especially between sister Councils so nearly connected, it was thought right to enter into negotiations with the Scotch Council for forming a treaty of alliance which should define what ought to be considered neutral ground for the Councils of Ireland, Scotland and England.

The immediate result of this step was the Memo. of the Scotch Council, dated 1st December, 1871, in which that Council states "its opinion," generally, "that our" (English Council) "proposition ought to be acceded to," the proposition being as follows:—"Whenever any one of these Councils shall have established the A. and A. S. Rite in one of the Colonies, the other Councils should leave that Colony under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Council which had first introduced the Rite.

Memo. of S.  
Council for Scot-  
land, 1st Dec.,  
1871.

In July 1871, the preliminaries for a Treaty with the Supreme Councils for Ireland and Scotland were entered upon. On the 14th December, 1871, the Scotch Council wrote in reply to a complaint made by the English Council, that Scotland was planting an A. and A. S. degree in New Brunswick while negotiations were pending, that the Scotch Council had granted years ago a Warrant for New Brunswick, though the said Warrant was not granted until the 9th August, 1871, nearly a month after preliminaries had been commenced.

July 1871. 14th  
Dec., 1871.

Copies of peti-  
tion to the N. J.  
United States  
received 17th  
January.

About the middle of the year 1871, the Scotch Council began to lay plans for establishing Rose Croix and Thirtieth Chapters in Bombay, though all the time they most strenuously denied the statement made by our Grand Inspector-General for India, namely that a Scotch Brother had authority for opening Chapters, etc., under the jurisdiction of the Scotch Council; in the

Bombay, 18th  
June, 1871.

meanwhile the acceptance of the proposed form of Treaty was delayed by requests for explanation of phrases, etc., sent at distant intervals of time ; the whole culminating in the Scotch Council refusing to sign the at last agreed upon form of Treaty, because Ireland though a consenting party, could not bind her own Rose Croix Chapters. For the sake of peace, concord and harmony, the English Council had agreed to allow concurrent jurisdiction to Ireland and Scotland whenever they had subordinate Lodges, Chapters, Councils or Consistories in the Colonies working the same orders in the same places whether in "St. Johns, Royal Arch, or Templar Masonry." But when the Scotch Council refused to sign the mutually agreed upon Treaty which contains the above Article, this Council reverted to its ancient rights, which existed before the preliminaries for a Treaty were entered upon, and which rights, now that the friendly advances of the English Council have been thrust back through no fault of her own, the English Council is determined to maintain, and she calls upon those Councils who are in friendly union to help her with their sympathy, aid and support, by all the legitimate means that the Grand Constitutions allow ; Scotland having lately in violation of the Grand Constitutions which every Supreme Council is bound to observe inviolate, or cease to exist as a Legal Council, planted or endeavoured to plant, Rose Croix Chapters in ground long since occupied by the English Council in Bombay and Gibraltar, where there does not appear to be even a Scotch Craft Lodge, and also in New Zealand where there is already a Rose Croix Chapter in active work ; it is again necessary

to say that at the Meeting of the Congress of Lausanne, Sept. 1875. 1875, the English Council proved its right to exclusive jurisdiction over the Colonies and Dependencies of Great Britain to the satisfaction of all the members present ; and had Scotland had anything to say against this claim, her Delegate, in the person of her Grand Secretary-General Bro. Mackersey, should have remained and have given the Congress a chance of knowing what his Council could advance instead of leaving before the work began.

That the Supreme Council for Great Britain and its Dependencies is not asserting any new right, it is only necessary to state that for very many years this right has been asserted and used ; that in accordance with this right, the Board of Trade, after due notice in the newspapers, enrolled this Supreme Council in 1871, under the Literary Scientific, Charitable Clause in the Companies Act, under the title of the "Supreme Council of the 33° of the A. and A. S. Rite of Masonry for England, Wales, and the Colonies," and the Supreme Councils as under who have appointed Grand Representatives near the Great East of London describe

this Supreme Council as for England, Wales, and the Dependencies, or Colonies, namely the Supreme Councils of:—

America Northern Jurisdiction, United States.

America Southern Jurisdiction, United States.

Argentine Republic.

Belgium.

Canada.

Central America.

Chito.

Colon for Cuba.

France.

Greece.

Hungary.

Ireland.

Italy.

Mexico.

New Granada.

Peru.

Portugal.

Switzerland.

Unguary.

Venezuela.

Not only is this jurisdiction confirmed by prescription, by Act of Incorporation, by consent of all our sister Councils, Scotland alone excepted, and whose Supreme Council made no protest until the right had become valid by use, but the Rite has been planted in nearly every one of the British Colonies by this Supreme Council; and in the Dominion of Canada so numerous were the bodies under the English jurisdiction that they were formed into a Supreme Council with the consent of all the sister Councils with the proviso, accorded by this Supreme Council, that one of the members of the First Supreme Council should be a Scotch Mason, because it was deemed right and just that in a country where so many Scotchmen live, one of the members of the Supreme Council for Canada should be of that nation.

With hardly an exception, in all the British Colonies there will be found the A. and A. S. Rite flourishing, under the jurisdiction of the Supreme Council 33° for England, Wales, and the Dependencies of the British Crown. This Supreme Council since 1845 has planted in England alone forty-five Chapters Rose Croix, still working, and has in addition thirty in the Colonies, making a Grand total of seventy-five Chapters, without counting those that used to work under its jurisdiction in Canada. A Council that has done so much for the Rite is not likely to submit to any interference from one that up to January 1872, had neither Chapter, Lodge, nor Tribunal out of Edinburgh, and which, after twenty-eight years existence, has only one Chapter for all Scotland.

⌘ J. M. P. MONTAGU, 33°,  
Grand Chancellor.

⌘ HUGH D. SANDEMAN, 33°,  
Grand Secretary for Foreign Correspondence.

} Delegates to the  
Council of Lau-  
sanne.

33, GOLDEN SQUARE W.,  
26th May, 1876.

*Supreme Council 33° of England, Wales, and the Dependencies  
of the British Crown.*

DEAR SIR & BROTHER,

I am directed by the Supreme Council 33° to transmit for your information copy of a Resolution passed by them on the 7th instant relating to the recent action of the Grand Orient of France, and I am to request that you will have the same read at the next Meeting of your Chapter and duly warn its members to hold no Masonic Communion from the 4th degree and upwards with the French brethren therein referred to. *N.B.*—This Resolution does not apply to the brethren under the obedience of the Supreme Council 33° of France.

I am, dear Sir & Brother,

Yours fraternally,

≠ SHADWELL H. CLERKE, 33°,  
Grand Secretary-General.

33, GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON W.,  
22nd November, 1877.

THE RECORDER,  
GOLCONDA CHAPTER,  
SECUNDERABAD.

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**RESOLUTION.**

Passed by the Supreme Council 33° for England, Wales. and the Dependencies of the British Crown, on Wednesday, the 7th November, 1877.

Whereas the Grand Orient of France confers Masonic Degrees from the Fourth to the Eighteenth Degree and upwards;

And whereas at their Meeting held on the 13th day of September 1877, they have declared it to be unnecessary to require of candidates for admission into Freemasonry a declaration of their belief in the existence of God, the Great Architect of the Universe;

And whereas this Supreme Council holds such a declaration to be a necessary condition of admission into Freemasonry; and further, that no person can be legitimately regarded as a Freemason unless he doth declare his belief in Almighty God;

It is resolved that this Supreme Council 33° does from henceforth cease to hold any alliance or Masonic intercourse with the Grand Orient of France, and does hereby instruct and direct its subordinate bodies to hold no Communion in the Degrees of the Ancient and Accepted Rite, from the 4° to the 33° inclusive, with the members of the various

bodies established by, or owing allegiance to, the said Grand Orient. And it is ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Grand Orient of France, as also to all Supreme Councils 33° with which this Supreme Council is in fraternal alliance, for their general information; and further that notification of the same be forthwith transmitted to all the subordinate bodies holding under, and bearing allegiance to, this Supreme Council 33° in order that the decision herein recorded may come into full force and execution without delay.

Certified to be a true copy.

≠ SHADWELL H. CLERKE, 33°,  
*Grand Secretary-General,  
 Supreme Council of England, Wales, and the  
 Dependencies of the British Crown.*

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During Bro. Colin Johnston's year of office the Chapter seems to have been somewhat inactive. He was succeeded by Ex. Bro. Campbell who was installed on 19th April, 1878. Very little was done during this year and the Chapter seems to be languishing, the attendance averaging about five. On 18th April Ex. Bro. Myers was installed as M. W. S. but then there occurs a gap of one year. No Meetings appear to have been held until 16th April, 1880, when only five were present: Bros. Campbell, B. Johnston, J. Carrs, Colin Johnston and H. Wahab. Ex. Bro. Carrs was requested to take charge of the Chapter until a M. W. S. could be elected. At this Meeting a letter was read from the Secretary-General in London to the effect that the name of Bro. Henry Morland of Bombay, had been expunged for "having violated his obligation to this Supreme Council" and his admission to any English Chapter was forbidden. This expulsion of so distinguished a Freemason (Sir Henry Morland was afterwards Grand Master of all S. Freemasonry in India) and a member of the S. 33° was no doubt due to his adherence to the Scotch 33°, after the controversy which took place in 1875 and extracts from which have been given. Another Meeting was held on the 30th April at which Bro. Colin Johnston officiates as M. W. S. Two fresh candidates were proposed, Bros. Hastings Palmer and Mervyn Archdale were admitted and advanced and it was resolved that a Chapter of Instruction should be held in the following month. Strange to say the Chapter now comes to a sudden close. No other Meetings were held, the Minutes of this Meeting are signed by Bro. Colin Johnston as Recorder but are not signed as 'Confirmed.' The Chapter

went into abeyance for upwards of 23 years, the Charter being kept in the custody of Ill. Bro. Carrs.

With reference to this, the writer asked Bro. Carrs if he could furnish him with any explanation regarding the cause of the Chapter ceasing to work and in reply received the following letter :—

YELLANDU,  
7th April, 1906.

DEAR BRO. GRIBBLE,

“ Your letter of the 5th received with reference to the collapse of the 18° about 1880. The Meetings were held quarterly and often at the night of Meeting there were not enough members to open the Chapter. I left Secunderabad in 1884. At that time B. Johnston was in charge of the Chapter and his brother C. Johnston was Secretary. I returned to Secunderabad in 1888. On going to St. John's Lodge, I missed the Charters of the 18° and K. T. which used to hang on the wall to the right and left of the Throne. I made enquiries of the caretaker and Secretary but could not get any information of what had become of the Charters or the furniture of the 18° or K. T.

I saw Col. Campbell who was a member of the Chapter, he said he knew nothing about it, he had not been in the Chapter for years. B. Johnston the last M. W. S. had died, also his brother C. Johnston and what had become of the Charters and the furniture he had not the slightest idea and so the matter remained for some years. Sometime about 1895 Wor. Bro. Hales who was Secretary to Lodge St. John sent me a box which he said he had found among some lumber in one of the old houses. On opening the box I found some old books of the 18° and K. T., also the Charters. If you remember, when the K. T. was resuscitated at Chadarghat we had to get a provisional Charter from Madras. I afterwards handed the original to Bro. Stevens. Bro. Rudad was here a few days ago, he told me there would be a Meeting of the 18° on the 19th instant. I intend going in for it. I will perhaps see you.

Yours sincerely,  
J. CARRS,  
C/o Station Master,  
Yellandu.

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In September 1903 the Chapter was resuscitated under sanction of the English Supreme Council. Major Vesey Davoren was the first M. W. S. The Chapter was opened by the veteran Brother Carrs and the first members were Bros. Moberly, Davies and Tyers. Five candidates were admitted and exalted, *viz.*, Lieut. Daw, Capt. R. Brown, Lieut. Scott Mowatt, Lieut. Hollins, Capt. Bliss and as serving Brother, Bro. DeSouza. It appears that certain other names which had been subscribed to the petition for re-opening had been omitted from the ballot for candidature, on the ground apparently that their social position was not sufficiently high. This of course involves a very delicate point and it would have been better to decide it before asking the brethren to join, since the subsequent omission of their names was calculated to cause ill-feeling. Bro. Moberly succeeded Bro. Davoren as M. W. S., and during these two years there was a considerable accession of members, and when in September 1905 Bro. Moberly handed over charge to Col. Bro. C. C. Little there were 27 names on the rolls and a cash balance of Rs. 190 after paying for all the necessary cost of kit, paraphernalia, etc. The Chapter continues to hold its Quarterly Meetings, though the attendance is small owing to the absence on duty of many of the members.

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## THE ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR, CONCLAVE CHUDDERGHAT, No. 21, E.C.

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This Conclave was opened on the 28th December, 1893. The opportunity of the Grand Lodge of Scotland coming to Hyderabad in order to consecrate the new Morland Assembly Rooms was taken and the late Bro. Newitt came especially from Madras for the purpose. The three original founders were V. W. Bros. Ardaseer R. Pilcher, J. D. B. Gribble and A. H. Stevens, who had already taken the degree. The Conclave was solemnly opened by Bro. Newitt and eighteen candidates were admitted, amongst them three of the Bombay Grand Officers who wished to introduce the degree in Bombay and found another Conclave.\* Bro. Ardaseer Pilcher was installed as first Supreme Ruler out of compliment to his age and standing, it being understood that a fresh election should take place in the following month. At the following Meeting in January the writer was elected Supreme Ruler and held the office for fifteen months. The degree was received with considerable favour as it appeals especially to Orientals generally and Mahomedans in particular. Eleven new candidates were proposed in January and admitted in April, during which time the Bye-laws were drawn up. A complete set of kit was ordered out from England and paid for and there were frequent Meetings during the year which were well attended. In October it was resolved that the Conclave should throw in its lot with Lodge Morland and in consideration of receiving a permanent right of occupancy should hand over its surplus revenues towards the payment of the Assembly Rooms debentures. In March the writer handed over charge of the Conclave to the next Supreme Ruler Bro. S. M. Moinudeen who was to be installed at the next Meeting. Before doing so he read an account of the position of the Conclave from which it appears, that the Conclave then consisted of thirty-nine members, and that after paying all expenses for kit, charter, etc., there was a balance in hand of Rs. 500. These results were very encouraging. Before handing over charge, the following address was delivered by the retiring S. R. which was a repetition of what he had said at the consecration of the Conclave fifteen months previously; "Brethren: The principal aim and object of Freemasonry is to form a tie of brotherhood amongst men generally; to aid in the diffusion of general happiness, and to lessen the aggregate of human misery and vice. The object of this degree of

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\* This was eventually done under the title of "Conclave Carna," No. 22, which therefore may be said to be an offshoot of Conclave Chudderghat.

Secret Monitor is to form a closer tie amongst Freemasons themselves, and to foster a love like that which existed between David and Jonathan, a love, which we are told, "surpassed that of women." Now, brethren, in order to make such a love possible it is necessary that there should be an entire and perfect confidence amongst us. There must be no hidden jealousies; no secret rancour; and no feeling of bitterness, which if allowed to remain unconfessed, rankles in the mind, until at last like leaven it pervades the whole soul.

"It is therefore, brethren, that I charge you most solemnly in the presence of the Most High, and on the obligation that you have just taken, that if any of you entertained any such feeling of bitterness or anger towards the other, you do at once dismiss the same from your minds, and do hold out to him the right hand of love and confidence.

"And I, as your Supreme Ruler, on my part, and on behalf of the other officers, do solemnly, and in the presence of the Most High, ask you to forgive me for anything that I may have done wittingly or unwittingly to any of you. If there is amongst you one, who feels that I have done him a wrong, I ask him now to pardon me, and to entertain for me in future the same feeling of love and confidence, that I do towards one and all of you.

"I pause to enable you to reflect and declare whether there is aught which prevents you from entertaining this feeling of brotherly love towards each other or towards myself and your other officers.

PAUSE.

"Brethren you are silent and I take your silence as a token of assent. In the words of the great Emperor Aurangzebe, when parting from one of his oldest friends shortly before his death, 'Let each of you place his hand upon his breast and repeat as I do, the words: *I forgive, I forgive; I forgive*; three times with sincerity of heart.' \* "

At this Meeting a Jewel was voted to the writer for his services.

During the next year (1895-96) there occurred the troubles in Lodge Morland which reacted seriously on the Conclave. There were several resignations and the arrears gave considerable trouble. During the year 1896-97 the present writer was again elected Supreme Ruler. The financial condition of the Conclave is at this time at a very low ebb; there are no funds in hand and several sums are due to the Treasurer and the Supreme Ruler. In December 1896 it was resolved to call upon eight members owing an aggregate of Rs. 400 to show cause why they should not be excluded, and the names are all the same as have from time to time appeared as defaulters in the other Lodges. It was also resolved to hold alternate Meetings of the Conclave at Secunderabad and Chudder-

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\* Extract from the history of Eradut Khan, translated by Scott, and by Elliot and Dowson.

ghat so as to make it more accessible to the Europeans. The writer was again elected S. R. for the year 1897-98 and installed at the Secunderabad Lodge building. The change of locality seems to have had a good effect, for six English M. M., most of them officers, were elected, and one joining member. Three of the new candidates were inducted. During the year the Conclave made some progress and W. Bro. Raghunath Prasad was elected Supreme Ruler for 1898-99. Three losses by death occurred during this year, Bros. Syed Yusuf and Mahomed Zuhoor and later on that of the generally beloved Brother Ardaseer Pilcher. Bro. Raghunath Prasad was re-elected S. R. for 1899-1900. The Conclave is now steadily improving in numbers and in finances. Amongst the new members is Rt. W. Bro. Srinivasa Chary who has done such good work in Lodge Morland. Capt. Walter Boardman also joined. During 1900-01 Rajah Bhagwan Sahai was S. R. and was succeeded in the following year by Bro. Srinivasa Chary. During his year of office there were several fresh admissions, amongst them Bro. C. H. D. Moberly, the Manager of the Bank of Bengal, who since his joining the station has been taking a very active part in all the Masonic Institutions. Also Bro. Lieut. Hollins. For the year 1904-05 Bro. Moberly, who had served the full time as Guide in Moulmein was elected S. R. and installed on 18th April, 1904, and a hearty vote of thanks was recorded to Bro. Srinivasa Chary for his services in the Chair. The same Brother was elected Secretary. Bros. Mix and Davies were admitted. The Conclave accounts show assets to the amount of Rs. 1,135-5-7, of which the cash balance in hand amounts to over Rs. 600, a fact which is highly creditable to all concerned. A considerable number of new candidates were received during Bro. Moberly's year of office and he was re-elected S. R. for the year 1905-06. Bro. Hormusjee Panthakai was admitted. In July 1905 the writer having returned to the station rejoined the Conclave having whilst absent been appointed G. Guide for the Deccan. Bros. Hovell and Knox of the Manchester Regiment were admitted. There is now a cash balance of Rs. 736 in hand. It was resolved in Permanent Committee to cancel the old arrangement with Lodge Morland regarding handing over the surplus funds, and as all the kit and regalia had been purchased and paid for from Conclave Funds, to offer Morland a payment on account of rent calculated at Rs. 12 for 41 Meetings. This would amount to Rs. 492 or deducting Rs. 300 actually paid to Lodge Morland as surplus revenue, there would be a balance of Rs. 192. As regards the future the Conclave resolved to offer a rent of Rs. 10 for each Meeting held in the Gosha Mahal Rooms.

This closes the account of the Secret Monitor. In January 1906 Bro. J. P. Davies was elected S. R. and Col. Little a rejoining member. The Conclave is now doing well and has a good average attendance.

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## CONCLUDING REMARKS.

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It will, I think, be apparent from the foregoing history of the Masonic Institutions in an Indian district, which extends over a considerable number of years, that the conditions in India are very different to what they are at home. This difference is due to the transitory character of the European element. In the great Presidency centres there will be always a permanent reserve to form the backbone of a Lodge or Lodges, but up-country it is not so, and it is upon the scattered up-country Lodges that the burden falls to maintain the Craft throughout the country. To make use of a familiar adage, they "get all the kicks and very few of the half pence." They are under this disadvantage that the members have few opportunities of remaining for any length of time under the exclusive jurisdiction of one District Grand Lodge. It is not to be expected that in a long period of service, during which they may be serving under half-a-dozen jurisdictions, they will be able to keep up their connexion with every Lodge they may join from time to time. It is a Masonic duty to belong to the Lodge which is working in the place where the Mason may, for the time being, reside. A military man can rarely expect to remain on an average more than three years and since the abolition of the Presidency armies, he belongs more or less to the whole of India. But apart from the large centres it is upon the Military Mason that we must chiefly depend for support. Under the present arrangements of District Grand Lodge jurisdictions, he has scarcely time to work his way through a Lodge and be qualified for District Grand Rank, but he is transferred to another jurisdiction. If he does not keep up his connexion with his old Lodge, he loses his qualification of membership of the District Grand Lodge to which it belongs, and must therefore begin over again in his new jurisdiction. Even if he retains his connexion, being absent, he will most certainly escape notice. Now, since it is the hope of reward that sweetens labour, it requires a very zealous Mason to continue for years working first in one jurisdiction and then in another without receiving a gradual recognition of his services. Wherever he may be stationed he does his best for the good of the Craft by joining one, and sometimes several, of the local institutions. He often helps to carry a Lodge through 'bad days.' He

leaves, and although locally gratefully remembered, and perhaps doing the same good work a thousand miles away, he is forgotten at his old head-quarters. His chance of being recognized by the Grand Lodge in England or Scotland is exceedingly small. The large majority of Masons in India are poor men; they would not be here if they were not, and they can rarely make large individual contributions to the great charities. The best they can do is to give their services and monthly contributions.\* Looking back over a long Masonic experience of 43 years, during which conditions have greatly changed, what seems to me to be required in India is a Metropolitan Grand Lodge, subordinate to the Grand Lodge in England but with an absolute jurisdiction over the whole of India. I make the suggestion with the utmost deference because I foresee what difficulties there may be in the way of carrying it out, and I do not wish to convey the idea that I am advocating a sovereign independence. All I plead for is a relation to the Grand Lodge of England similar to that of India itself towards her Emperor. We require a Viceroy.

Another feature that cannot help striking the reader, who has followed me so far, is the constant trouble accruing from arrears. I am of course speaking of the District to which my historical account refers. This is the rock upon which almost every Lodge has at one time or other nearly come to grief. But as far as my experience goes I feel

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\* Under Section 9 of the Constitutions, a Brother who is a member of Grand Lodge, forfeits his membership if for 12 months he has ceased to be a subscribing member of any English Lodge and cannot regain the right of membership until he has again duly served the office of Master of such a Lodge.

Primarily this rule refers to the Grand Lodge of England. Is it intended to refer also to Provincial or District Grand Lodge in India? To quote an actual case, "A," a P. M. of several English and Scotch Lodges and a P. D. G. W. of an Indian District Grand Lodge, goes to Europe on two years' sick leave. Before leaving India he takes a clearance certificate from the Lodge to which he belongs. During his absence, owing to ill-health or absence from England, he is unable to join any other Lodge. Immediately on his return to India he rejoins his old Lodge and resumes his position of P. M. Now a P. M. is *ex-officio* a member of the District Grand Lodge, but although he is a P. D. G. W. he is told that under this rule although he retains his P. D. G. rank he cannot become a member of the District Grand Lodge until he has again served the office of Master of a Lodge in its jurisdiction. This seems an anomaly and is a rule which requires reconsideration as regards India. At all events it seems desirable to draw attention to it, so that Brethren should remember to keep their names on the books of at least one Lodge so as not to forfeit their privileges of District Grand Lodge membership. In order to provide for such cases, it would seem to be desirable to have a rule that by a small lump payment a Brother could become a Life Member conditional on his rejoining a Lodge immediately he returns to the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge in question.

bound to say that Lodges where the military element predominates, form a notable exception. As a rule, each man comes up with his monthly dues and pays them in to the Secretary before the Lodge opens. If this practice could be made universal, the benefit would be enormous. As arrears creep up, it becomes more difficult to pay them off. A Lodge is always reluctant to take extreme measures, and when it is compelled to do so a certain amount of soreness is inevitable. If cash payments were made absolutely necessary, men would refrain from joining more institutions than they could afford to pay for ; and much annoyance and discredit to the Craft would be avoided.

Another point which Lodges might well take into consideration in framing their by-laws is the matter of joining fees. Where the society changes so much, it would seem to be advisable that a joining fee should not be charged more than once, in the same Lodge. A member generally rejoins a Lodge because his absence has been compulsory, and he does so because he wishes to again enjoy his Masonic privileges.

There is still another matter to which I wish to allude and that is, that we should be careful not to "overdo" Freemasonry. The history of the Hyderabad Masonic Institutions shows how difficult it is to maintain anything like vitality in the numerous side degrees which have from time to time been started. Like a bottle of soda water they go off with a 'pop' and either the contents are swallowed at once, or the remainder becomes flat. Except in large centres where there is a resident reserve all such institutions must be more or less ephemeral. It is to the credit of Hyderabad that all of the institutions originally started still exist, but outside of the Craft, or Blue Masonry, very few can be said to be in a really healthy condition. They exist and that is all that can be said. And with a large number of such institutions the zealous Mason who belongs to all must necessarily be deficient in effective working.

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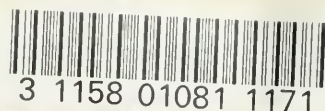
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